An EASIE and SAFE

METHOD

FOR

CURING

THE

King's Evil,

Scrofulous Humours, white Swellings, *&c.* with ſeveral Obſervations of Diet and Air, which may be of Uſe and Service to People afflicted with thoſe Diſtempers; alſo a large Account of many extraordinary Cures on Men, Women, and Children, with plain Reaſons, why theſe Illneſſes are not Curable by the Common and Known Methods of Phyſick and Surgery.

In a Letter to a Friend.

The Twelfth Edition.

By WILLIAM VICKERS, M.A.

The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth, and he that is wiſe will not abhor them, and hath given Men Power and Skill, that he might be honour'd in his marvellous Works, Ecclus. xxxviii. 5, 6.

Exiſtimo Deum perfecte & ſufficienter in Simplicibus compoſuiſſe completa morborum quorumcunque remedia.—— Felix ille qui Simplicibus tuto atque prompte novit tollere & conculcare morbus. *Helmont.*

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

An EASIE and SAFE

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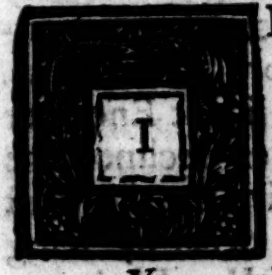
King's Evil, &c.

SIR,



IN Compliance with your late Requeſt, I here ſend you a ſhort Account of my Method for curing the *King's-Evil:* A Diſtemper which you know I was extreamly afflicted with from my Infancy, and which continued many Years with that violence, that all Hopes of Cure were given over by my Friends and Self. The Diſtemper had ſeized both my Arms, my Right Hand, the Fore-Finger of my Left, and my Feet, to ſuch a Degree, and with ſuch Violence, that ſeveral Surgeons were of Opinion, that both Hands and

The Author's Condition.

Feet muſt be cut off. The Humour likewiſe fell with that Severity on my Eyes, that the Sight of each was judged irrecoverably loſt. In fine, my whole Body became ſo extremely Weak and Feeble, with continual Runnings in ſo many Places, that for many Years I could neither go or ſtand without Crutches. In this miſerable Condition, (without any Hopes or Proſpect of Relief) I lived many Years, until it pleaſed God to direct me to the Knowledge of thoſe Means, the extraordinary Effects whereof as much exceeded mine and all other Peoples Expectations, as the Benefit reaped did my Merits; by the Uſe whereof, God be praiſed, in a very few Months, I became perfectly Sound and Well. It's now more than twenty Years ſince I was healed, enjoying as good Health and Sight as moſt People do, without any Fear or Apprehenſions of a Relapſe, being able to endure the coldeſt Weather, to read until Midnight, and to walk as much Ground, every Day, as the Generality of People do, without ſuffering any Prejudice thereby. I once thought (as moſt People do) that the *King's Evil*, eſpecially in ſuch a high Degree as I had it, was incurable; and I had Reaſon to believe it, after ſo many Years Endeavours for a Cure had been ſpent to ſo little Purpoſe, concluding, that when the Attempts of many able and skilful Phyſicians had all along proved ineffectual, there remain'd nothing more to be done. As my ſad Condition made me a diligent Enquirer after all ſorts of Remedies; ſo I never declined the Uſe of any Means, which might give me the leaſt Hopes of Succeſs. I was ſtroked twice by King *Charles* II. and thrice by King *James* II. It's incredible, to tell the great Quantities of *Purges*, *Vomits*, *Diet-drinks*, *Alkalious Medicines*, *Lime-waters*, *Millipedes*, *Rue-Whitlow-Graſs*, and many other things, not excepting *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Remedies, which I have taken in my Time; but nothing avail'd, until it pleas'd God, by a wonderful Providence, to

direct

direct me to the Knowledge of this *Specifick*, which in its Effects exceeded all my Hopes and Expectations.

And becauſe ſome have very high Thoughts of the two laſt named Medicines, (*viz. Mercurial* and *Antimonial*,) it may not be improper to acquaint you that I made ſeveral Trials thereof, but never reaped the leaſt Benefit or Advantage from the Uſe of either. And I believe the *King's Evil* is of that peculiar Nature, ſo directly oppoſite to that Diſeaſe wherein *Mercurials* and *Antimonials* are ſo much uſed, that it's no wonder they are ſo unſucceſsfully given, nay, ſometimes are ſo very dangerous in theſe *Scrofulous Tumours*. In one Particular I was always very happy, *viz.* to reject a *Salivation*, a Remedy certainly worſe than the Diſeaſe. For where it does not deſtroy Life, it entails ſo diſmal a Train of Miſeries, as a Man had better be buried alive than ſuffer. For my part, I ſhould ever eſteem that Man the beſt Phyſician, who attends to all future Conſequences; who (as a certain Author ſaith) does not heal one Diſeaſe by procuring a worſe, but reſtores ſuch a Life as a Man can afterwards enjoy with Eaſe and Safety. Perhaps Craftſmen may not like theſe Reflections; but herein I act the Part of a Friend, which a wiſe Man accounts a very great Bleſſing; *A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life, and he that fears the Lord ſhall find him.*

Vid. Dr. Morton *of Conſumptions*, p. 46.

Reflections upon Learning, p. 222.

Eccleſ. 6. 16.

Now in order to give you ſome Account of this Cure on my ſelf; I muſt inform you, that it providentially came into my Mind, to make Experiment of one ſingle Remedy, believing, that Simplicity of *Medicines* would be as effectual, as that of *Diet*. The Uſe whereof, firſt of all, I begun internally, with five or ſix Grains, Morning and Evening, in a Glaſs of Spring Water; and for external Application, I us'd an *Oint-*

ment

ment and *Cerecloth*, made with the ſame Remedy. This Method I continued ſome time; but afterwards with much greater Advantage, I infus'd a certain Quantity of this *Specifick Remedy* in a Gallon of Spring-Water, which, when it was fine and clear, became my conſtant Drink, abſolutely abſtaining from all other Liquors, except a Glaſs of Wine now and then, at Meals. When I had drunk of this *Specifick Water* eighteen or twenty Days, my Sores ran with a much greater Flux of Matter than ever before. Alſo ſeveral foul and rotten Bones, in ſeveral Joints, came forth, without any Pain or Trouble. And likewiſe ſome hard and unulcerated Swellings aſſwaged, and went away with the like Eaſe. My Strength alſo increaſed conſiderably, and my uſual Pains (upon any ſudden Change of Weather) ceaſed, with ſuch a viſible Alteration throughout my whole Conſtitution, that if I may ſo expreſs it, I thought my ſelf in a manner new created. Two Things I obſerv'd very ſtrange and unaccountable: The Firſt was, That whereas my Sores, for the firſt Month or ſix Weeks, ran ſo exceſſively, that one would have thought it impoſſible to ſubſiſt under ſo great a Diſcharge; yet my Strength daily increaſed; and the more plentifully the Humour ſpent it ſelf this Way, the more hearty and ſtrong I perceiv'd my ſelf to grow. The other Thing I obſerved, was, That my *Urine*, after ſome time taking of this *Specifick Remedy*, became as thick and ropy, as if it had been blended with Whites of Eggs, or ſuch like viſcous Matter, which continu'd until all my Sores healed, as they did perfectly in about eight Months, or ſomething leſs. During this Courſe, I never found the leaſt Tendency or Diſpoſition unto Sickneſs, or any other Inconveniency whatſoever, but ſuch a difference for Eaſe, that there was no Compariſon between this Method of Cure,

Its Effects.

Two remarkable Symptoms.

and

and those wherewith I had been formerly treated; so easie and pleasant was the Operation, and withal so efficacious.

Should I pretend to give what the Doctors call the *Rationale*, how this *Specifick* Remedy effected my Cure by such an easy and uncommon Evacuation, it would be of little Moment, tho' done with the utmost *Art* and Accuracy: all who are the least acquainted with the History of Physick know, that nothing is more common among its Professors, than to form *Hypotheses*, which in a little time become exploded as ridiculous. Dr. *Willis*, in his time, took upon him *Systematically* to account for the secret and hidden Operation of Medicines on human Bodies; but Dr. *Mead*, in his Treatise *de imperio Solis & Lunæ, &c.* saith, that Dr. *Willis* hath given us an *Idea* of *Soporiferous Distempers, which shews the Author more abounded in Words than in Principles of Physick.* And though Dr. *Mead* should be mistaken in his Censure, yet he, nor Dr. *Willis*, nor any other Author, give us any light how such an Operation, as my *Specifick* produceth, can be accounted for according to their imaginary Explications of Causes and Effects; For how Nature disposeth Remedies to effect particular Cures, must be no easie Matter to determine, until we are able to penetrate more nicely into Things so remote from our Senses: And therefore till I am able to talk otherwise than in the vulgar Cant of *Thinning*, *Rarifying*, *Absorbing*, and *Attenuating* those *stagnated, coagulated Juices*, I will be silent of those Matters; and shall only observe, that this Disease may be led, but not driven; and that the gentlest Methods will be always likely to prove the most successful. Men may Purge and Salivate as long as they please, without any other Effect, than that the Morbifick Matter, which uses to be thrown out by Ulcers, *&c.* shall, by the Debility and Weakness of the Patient, occasioned by such rough Usages, be turned upon some of the more

more noble Parts, and thereby bring Death much ſooner, than if Nature had been ſuffered quietly (as long as ſhe was able) to disburden herſelf through thoſe extraordinary Canals, by her formed to evacuate what is hurtful; and yet there may be ſome Simples and Methods which will ſafely and effectually cure this Diſtemper, with infinite leſs Trouble than what People undergo in ſuch Caſes by the common Applications, which debilitate Patients to ſuch a degree as to make them utterly incurable, who might have eaſily been reliev'd if thoſe common rough Courſes of Phyſick had been forborn. I can truly ſay, from my own Experience, that the greater Violence I was treated with, when afflicted with that Diſtemper, by ſo much the worſe it fared with me; the ſame I very well remember was the uſual Complaint of all my Fellow-ſufferers, whereof I had a large Acquaintance, who are long ſince expired, much the ſooner I fear by thoſe Things which were preſcribed as Remedies, than if the Diſeaſe had been left to it ſelf.

When a human Body is ſo far depraved, as that this, or any other Diſtemper happens, and if Methods are uſed, which inſtead of healing that Decay of Nature, do further weaken the whole Body, and inſtead of being a Friend prove an Enemy: Can any Man think but ſuch additional Attacks tend to deſtroy where it pretended to give Aſſiſtance, and this is the true Reaſon why I meet with ſo much more difficulty in the Cure of thoſe People who have paſs'd thro' the ordinary and ſtated Methods of Phyſick and Surgery, than of others (who though they have the Diſtemper more violently) have never been tamper'd with; tho' even ſome of theſe, I can truly affirm, with God's wonderful Bleſſing on my Endeavours, have been healed by me, though pronounced incurable by ſome called the *Æſculapii* of this Age, who had uſed their utmoſt Efforts to no other Purpoſe, but of leaving their Patients much worſe than they found them.

The

The uſual Practice in curing the *King's Evil*, I have obſerv'd to run (in a manner) chiefly upon Evacuation, with the Uſe of the Decoction of the Woods, and ſome other *Simples*; which Methods are ſo generally known and uſ'd, that if five hundred People were afflicted with this Diſtemper, and as many Phyſicians conſulted, a Man might not only pretty nearly gueſs, what each of them would preſcribe; but alſo, what Effects each Perſon might expect from their Preſcriptions. But now, as this my *Specifick* Remedy is new and uncommon, ſo likewiſe are its Operations different from any Medicines I ever yet knew or heard of. For, no ſooner is this Remedy incorporated with the Blood, but the ſcrofulous Ulcers open like ſo many Flood-Gates, pouring out the Humour with a mighty Current, which to every Bodies thinking, ſhould rather waſte and conſume the Body, than encreaſe its Strength and Vigour. But it proves quite otherwiſe, for by how much the more plentifully the Humour ſpends it ſelf this way, by ſo much the more hearty and ſtrong do People grow. And this one thing I look upon as a very reaſonable Indication of a ſucceeding Cure; becauſe this viſcous and ſtubborn Humour, which will not yield to other Evacuations, tho' never ſo ſtrong, is here by thrown out, the Way which Nature indicates to diſburden her ſelf. This paſs'd for a Maxim with *Hippocrates*; *Aphor.* 21. *Thoſe things* (ſaith he) *which are to be carried off, are to be drawn whither they moſt incline, through ſuch Ways and Places as are fitteſt for Conveyance and Expulſion.* Of the ſame Mind was the great Dr. *Sydenham*, a Man famous in his Time; *Where Nature*, ſaith he, *hath appointed ſome certain way of Evacuation, whatever Method aſſiſts her in her own way, neceſſarily conduceth to Healing of the Diſeaſe.* And, ſaith the late Dr. *Paxton*, *Herein conſiſts one great Secret of Phyſick, in rightly judging when it's neceſſary and ſafe to evacuate, and in diſtinguiſhing by what Ways*

and Methods it ought to be done; if we miſtake in either, inſtead of preſerving the Sick, we may deſtroy him. And methinks, it ſhould eaſily be allow'd, that to promote a regular *Secretion* of the Morbifick Matter in thoſe Places where Nature hath determin'd to empty herſelf, is the moſt rational and ſafe Method for eradicating this Diſeaſe. Sometimes this *Specifick* Remedy will precipitate this Humour, and bring it away by *Urine* alſo: Which, as the Divine *Hippocrates* hath elſewhere obſerved, is a good Sign of an enſuing Cure.

After a few Days takings of this *Specifick Remedy*, either in *Specie*, or diſſolved in any proper *Vehicle*, I have, therewith, brought ſeveral of theſe knotty and hard Swellings to ſpeedy Suppuration, which before would not yield to the ſtrongeſt Cataplaſms, Poultices, or the other greaſie Emollients. And, moreover, where the foulneſs of the Bones have not been ſuſpected, they have, by taking this Remedy, perforated the Skin, and ſcaled without Pain and Trouble. The Glands are thought to be the Seats of the *King's Evil*, ſwelled and enflamed with a viſcous and ropy Matter. If ſo, may it not be allowed, that a Medicine, whoſe immediate Operations are upon theſe *ſecretory Veſſels*, muſt needs be of prime Uſe and Advantage in this Caſe, ſince it affects none but the diſtempered Parts, nor diſturbs any other Humour but the Scrofulous; the like effect, I fancy, can't be found from the Uſe of any other Medicine, Simple or Compound. For an unqueſtionable Proof of this Matter, I dare appeal to thoſe who have taken this *Specifick* Remedy, if they have not found an immediate Senſe of its Operation in the Parts affected, after having drank but one or two Glaſſes thereof.

That *Specifick* Remedies were always held in great Eſteem by Phyſicians, Surgeons, and Naturaliſts, their own Writings do abundantly teſtify. *Hippocrates*, though not the earlieſt Author, ſpeaks much in their Praiſe, affirming his own Experience of them, and thoſe of his Predeceſſors, were ſufficient to recom-

commend their Uſe. *Galen* likewiſe relates ſeveral Cures done by them, tho' he could give no rational Account how they diſplayed their Virtues on particular Parts and Humours. Dr. *Paul Barbette* ſpeaks much in favour of ſome internal Remedies, to have a Specifical Energy for curing the *King's Evil*. Dr. *Mead* alſo, in his Mechanical Account of Poiſons, declares, from his own Experience, the Fat of *Vipers* to have a Power beyond all other Medicines to expel their *Poiſons*: And in his other Treatiſe, *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ*, ſpeaking of the Falling Sickneſs, he ſaith, "If any thing can poſſibly cure this Diſtemper, and correct the Faults of the *Fluids* (though by the way, the Doctor gives us no Mathematical Demonſtration how) "we may hope for it either from "true or fictitious *Cinnaber*, or from the Root of "wild *Valerian*: I have found (ſaith the Doctor) "by Experience, a good Effect from both." The late Dr. *Ratcliffe* was wont to ſay, "Mankind had as "much reaſon to bleſs God for thoſe Specificks, O"*pium* and the *Bark*, as they had for their daily "Bread. And Dr. *Tho. Fuller* ſaith,

That Specificks *are found, by Experience, to have Reſpect to one Part more than another; that a Medicine may ſtrike a particular Impreſſion on one Humour, and not touch another*: Whereof the Doctor gives us many Inſtances. *And therefore* (ſaith he in another Place) *tho' the faſhionable Opinion of late Years runs, that there are no ſuch things as* Electives, *reſpecting one Humour more than another, yet irrefragable Experience proves otherwiſe to the very Senſes.* *Phar. Extemp.* p. 88.

"Some People have denied the Efficacy "of *Specificks* operating on particular "Humours, (ſaith Monſieur *Lemery*) "but by ſmall Obſervation in the "Practice of Phyſick, one may ſoon perceive their "different Effects. And tho' the Practice of Phy"ſick did not prove it, yet the Rules of Chymiſtry "are a Demonſtration of it. For ſeeing the diffe- *Courſe of Chymiſtry*, p. 639.

"rent Nature of Subſtances upon which we make "Experiments, require different Diſſolvents, we "have good reaſon to conclude the ſame of thoſe "Humours of the Body, which are of a different "Nature." And, indeed, the Suffrages of all our eminent Phyſicians and Naturaliſts agree, till of late, that Remedies might be found to act more directly upon ſome particular Parts and Humours, than others: Which, as the Lord *Bacon* truly obſerves, is the Cauſe *why Empiricks and old Women are more happy many times, in their Cures, than Learned Phyſicians; becauſe they are faithful and ſteady to thoſe approv'd Medicines, which they have found out for particular Diſeaſes*; And therefore, ſaith he, *it would be Matter of good Conſequence, if ſome Phyſicians of Note for Learning and Practice, would compile a Work of Probations and experimental Medicines for the Cure of particular Diſeaſes. No doubt*, ſaith the ſame Author, *if Phyſicians, letting Generalities go for a while, and ſuſpending their Aſſent thereto, would make their Approaches to Nature, they might become Maſters of that* Art *whereof the Poet ſpeaks*,

Advancement of Learning, p. 196.

Et quoniam variant morbi variabimus artes,
Mille mali Species, mille ſalutis erunt. *Ovid.*

I find Sir *William Temple* in his Eſſay upon Health writes thus, "The great Defects in this *Science* (ſpeaking of Phyſick) ſeems to have proceeded from "the Profeſſors Application (eſpecially ſince *Galen*'s time) running ſo much upon Method, and "ſo little upon Medicine, and in this to have "addicted themſelves ſo much to Compoſition, and "neglected too much the Uſe of *Simples*, as well as "the Enquiries and Records of *Specifick* Remedies." But now truly, according to the preſent Mode of Practice, if Diſeaſes are not curable by what the Apothecaries Shop affords, there

is

is a *ne plus ultrà*; ſo that the *King's Evil*, the *Gout*, *&c.* become *Opprobia Medicorum*, not ſo much from their ſtubborn Natures, as by thoſe Reſtrictions and Limitations Phyſicians have ſet to their Practice. Thus by fixing Boundaries to God's Works, thoſe Remedies which by Specifick Properties would effectually cure particular Diſtempers, are in a manner loſt; for, ſay they, Every Medicine operates Mechanically, according to the Laws of *Motion*, *Attraction*, *Gravitation*, *Cohæſion*, *&c.* which all Bodies are ſubject to; therefore there cannot be a peculiar Aptitude in any one Remedy, to relieve this, or any other Malady more than another. I confeſs theſe Gentlemen act with ſome Fineneſs and Subtilty, becauſe the belief of *Specificks* would invalidate their new Theories; therefore they affirm, there are no *Specifick* Remedies, and conſequently lead People from valuing ſuch things as have been always experienc'd to be beneficial in particular Diſtempers. I would only ask theſe *Anti-Specifick* Gentlemen, Why different Subſtances require different Reſolvents, as every one acquainted with *Pharmacy* and *Chymiſtry* knows? Why their Officinal Medicines are diſtributed into diſtinct Claſſes, anſwering to ſome particular Intentions, *viz. Cephalicks* for Diſeaſes of the Head, *Alexipharmicks* to expel Poiſons, *Arthriticks* for Diſeaſes of the Gout, *Diureticks* to provoke Urine, and the like? Is not this to ſay, in other Words, there are *Specifick* Remedies for particular Parts and Humours? Does this amount to any thing more than the Cloathing the ſame thing with other Words, only to amuſe and deceive the Vulgar, by raiſing a Duſt to make it more obſcure and myſterious, perſwading us to believe they know more than all that went before them? I ſhall only remark how contrary this is to that Openneſs and Ingenuity of Temper, which were the Ornaments of ſome of their Predeceſſors, particularly Dr. *Sydenham*, who ſays, *Though Specifick Remedies*

fall

fall not to every Man's ſhare, yet, no doubt, out of that abundant Plenitude with which Nature overflows, Care is taken, by the excellent Maker of all Things, for the Cure of all thoſe Diſeaſes afflicting Mankind, and that near at hand, in every Country. Some time or other, adds the Doctor, *a Specifick Remedy will be found for the Gout, which, if ever it comes to paſs, will expoſe the Ignorance of the Dogmatical, how much they are deceived in their Knowledge of ſecret Cauſes of Diſeaſes, and the Remedies they apply.* Of the ſame Mind was the late Dr. *Ratcliffe,* who was wont to ſay, *Some old Woman, one time or other, would find out a Remedy for the* Gout. To add no more, the Honourable Mr. *Boyle,* that famous Reſtorer of Experimental Philoſophy (as Dr. *Friend* calls him) hath written a Treatiſe of the Reconcileableneſs of *Specifick* Medicines to the Corpuſcular Philoſophy.

Pliny ſays, we are ignorant of what we live upon; but in my Opinion, we are leſs acquainted with that which makes us ſick. Daily Experience convinceth us, that our Conſtitutions are injur'd, yet we can't Scientifically demonſtrate the Cauſes thereof; for tho' we may ſometimes think we know whence they come, yet very often we can't ſo much as gueſs whence or how they came to paſs: And to ſhew the Weakneſs of our Wiſdom, it's often found, that many Diſtempers are cur'd by thoſe very Things, which, according to our Reaſon and way of Thinking, are directly oppoſite to the very Nature of the Diſeaſe: *We ſee Contraries often prove Remedies to one another in the Juices, and Poiſons become beneficial, when oppos'd to certain Humours; the World has lately had full Evidence of the good Effects of an intenſe Cold, equally apply'd to all the Parts of the Body at once; which Method of Curing ſome Years ago, was thought very extravagant, and certainly deſtructive.*

Dr. Fuller's Med. Gymnaſtica.

As Diſeaſes have infinite Ways and Means to enter upon us, ſo there may be as many for Health to return

turn by, if Mens Pride and Conceit did not too often turn them out of the way leading to it. It's an eaſie Matter to imagine this or that Humour to be the Cauſe of any particular Diſtemper, and to form Methods of Cure upon ſuch Conjectures, but Nature, who beſt knoweth her own Wants and Grievances, is not eaſily managed by ſuch Devices. She will be ſerved in her own Way, and needeth no other Aſſiſtance for her Preſervation againſt all Aſſaults, but a prudent Application of thoſe Remedies ſhe hath every where provided, ſuitable to each Complaint. If Providence had not thus order'd Things, what muſt become of the firſt Inhabitants of the World, and of thoſe People now living in many Places, who have no Phyſicians, *Philoſophy* nor *Medicines to heal their Sickneſſes*, but ſuch as are vulgarly known among themſelves, and approved by their own Experience and Obſervation? In ancient *Babylon*, great and populous as it was, no Phyſicians were known, nor other Methods for curing Diſtempers, than thoſe gain'd by every Man's own Experience and Enquiry, *Artem experientia fecit, exemplo monſtrante viam.* Manilius.

For my part, I think it would ſhew a Pride and Conceit in me, that becauſe God, in his great Goodneſs, hath been pleaſed to diſcover to me the Means of curing this Diſtemper, by this gentle and eaſy Method; therefore I ſhould take upon me to delineate, and exactly deſcribe, either the Cauſes of this Evil Humour, or thoſe ſeveral Proceſſes whereby its Cure is effected; for I well remember, that when I applied my ſelf to others for Cure, they, of all Men, had the worſt Succeſs in their Practice upon me, who profeſſed to have a clear and perfect Knowledge of the Origin; their fine Reaſonings, and nice Speculations, after a long Courſe of painful Experiments, ended only in grievous Diſappointments. If the moſt learned Men have not explained ſeveral Phænomena in Nature,

why

why should I pretend to solve what is as difficult to the full, and perhaps wholly inexplicable. Many Diseases are of that hidden and abstruse Nature, working out their Effects by secret Ways, and so remote from human View, that oftentimes the most learned Physicians have not been able to determine the immediate Cause with that Certainty, but that others have as strenuously opposed it: In this Disease, particularly, I believe I could cite twenty different Opinions, out of Authors, each of them peremptorily asserting the Cause and Cure from their own *Hypotheses*. And I once knew a young Gentleman with a Swelling under his right Jaw, who * ended his Life before his Physicians could end the Dispute among themselves, whether the Tumour was Scrofulous or not.

It's somewhat strange, a Disease every where so common, should admit of any Doubt or Dispute, when the very Complexion (without any other Sign) is a clear Indication. I knew a young Lady much afflicted with Pains in her Head, attended with great dimness of Sight, which I suspected to be the *King's Evil*, but her Relations slighted my Judgment: When she was dead, her Head being open'd, it appeared that her Brain was in a manner consumed, and the inward Table of her Scull *carious*. I saw likewise a Child open'd about 12 or 13 Years of Age, whose Liver and Lungs were evidently Scrofulous, and yet when living she had no outward Signs of any such Distemper. A Gentleman sent two of his Sons out of *Ireland* to *Westminster* School, they seem'd both healthful Youths; but soon after the Elder of them grew indispos'd with a Cough, and died *rabid*; his Body being open'd, his Lungs

* *Neque enim si veritas esset inventu facilis tot ac tanti viri in ea quærenda occupati, in tam contrarias sectas fuissent unquam dispertiti.* Paracelsus.

were

were diſcover'd full of *Strumæ*. Dr. *Walter Needham*, in one of his Lectures at *Surgeons-Hall*, declares, "He had ſeen a ſtrumous Swelling hanging "at the Cone of the Heart, the Weight of two "Ounces.

I know it hath been ſuggeſted, that I call all Tumours, Breakings out, and Lippitudes, the *King's Evil*, which is utterly falſe; and I challenge any one to inſtance, where I ſaid a Caſe was *Scrofulous*, and it proved otherwiſe. Divers Perſons, I am ſenſible, make their Advantage of Peoples Ignorance and Averſions to this Diſtemper, deluding them with contrary Perſwaſions and Practices, till it's too late to help them by any Means: whereas it would be much Honeſter to tell the Truth at firſt, whereby greater *Evils* to Body and Purſe might eaſily be prevented. Within theſe few Years, I cured a conſiderable Merchant of this City, who told me, after he had been ſix or ſeven Years in hand among the knowing Men, the Concluſion of the Story was, *Sir, Your Diſtemper proves to be the* King's Evil, *and we can do you no farther Service.*

The Beginnings of theſe Scrofulous Tumours, I have obſerved, are ſo very ſmall, that their firſt Appearances are ſcarcely diſcernable, but by Degrees (ſome ſooner, others later) they will encreaſe to a very large Size, and become as hard as Flints, whereof I have ſeen ſeveral Inſtances: And what is more ſtrange, theſe Glandulous Swellings are nouriſhed and ſupplied with *Juices* diſtinct from the Blood, fixed in determinate Seats, defended and wrapped up in their proper Coats and Veſſels. A Proceſs of Nature widely different from thoſe Notions and Accounts hitherto given us of this Diſtemper. And whereas it's generally thought that Children have this Diſtemper only by Inheritance: I have known many afflicted therewith, where no *Hereditary Contagion* could reaſonably be ſuppos'd: Neither my Father, Mother, nor any of their Relations,

 nor

nor one of my preſent Family, I can truly affirm, ever had the leaſt Sign or Symptom of this Evil Humour among them. Many grown Perſons become afflicted with the *King's Evil* by external Accidents, *viz. Blows, Bruiſes, Compreſſions, Wrenches of the Hip, Knee, Ancle*, and many other Joints. I have ſeen a Woman with two of theſe ſtrumous Swellings, the Bigneſs of a Turkey's Egg, as hard as Pebbles, under her Jaws, who ſolemnly proteſted to me, that both thoſe Swellings came in a Night's Time, and that when ſhe went to Bed, ſhe was as free of them as any Woman living. In my Obſervations, I have ſeen more People ſubject to this Diſtemper after the Small-Pox, than before; and generally ſpeaking, the moſt healthful and active Children are ſooneſt liable to the *King's Evil*. Whatever therefore ſome Men may boaſt of their extraordinary Skill in occult Cauſes, or as one of them ſaith, that, "*The firſt* "*Step towards the Removal of a Diſeaſe, is to know* "*its Origin.*" Their Imaginations hitherto prove but wild Viſions, like the Philoſopher's Stone, or the univerſal Medicine. What clearer Diſcoveries of this evil Humour Poſterity may bring to light, muſt be left to time; but thoſe Hiſtories already given are rather *ignes fatuii*, miſguiding us to Rocks and Precipices, than leading to the genuine Method of Cure. "*Parent Na-*

Page 61. "*ture*, ſaith Dr. *Sydenham*, *accompliſhes* "*the Generation of all things, which at any* "*time ſhe brings to light from the Boſom of Cauſes, by moſt* "*certain Rules, only known to her ſelf, and hides their Eſſence,* "*Quiddities, and conſtitutive Differences, in the greateſt* "*Obſcurity.* And therefore, ſaith he, "*The Cure of moſt* "*Diſeaſes are not performed by the Knowledge of their* "*occult Cauſes, but by a proper Method approved by Ex-* "*perience.*" What repeated Experience recommends to us for a Truth, on that we may always ſafely depend. Men hatch a great many *Speculations* in their Cloſets, which when

when they reduce to Practice, are found to be no better than Dreams of a deluded Imagination. *Sola Remedia ſanant*, ſaid good old *Celſus*: One good Remedy is preferable to all Hypotheſes and plauſible Conjectures: And therefore, what Sir *Robert Tabor* ſaid to the *French* King's Phyſicians, when, in a ſcoffing manner, they demanded of him what was the Cauſe of a Fever, I think was very ingenious, and more to the Purpoſe than any other Anſwer whatſoever: *A Fever* (quoth he) *is a Diſeaſe you do not know how to cure, but I do.*

Provided we know Peoples Tempers and Conſtitutions, and thoſe good and bad Symptoms peculiarly incident to each Diſtemper, as alſo which of the *Non-Naturals* do us good, and which of them do injury, and have but proper Remedies, we need not buſie our ſelves much about *ſecret Cauſes*. However, from all my Experience I think I may affirm, that this Diſtemper is to be cured only by inward Applications, whether *Specificks* or otherwiſe; for there is no Poſſibility of deſtroying its Effects, but by removing the Cauſe: Neither *Topical Medicines* nor *Manual Operations* will avail to any laſting Purpoſe, if the Humour be not thoroughly eradicated. Whoever knoweth any thing of the ancient Practice of *Phyſick* and *Surgery*, cannot but be ſenſible, that in all ſuch Caſes their firſt and chiefeſt Applications were *Vulnerary Potions*: The ingenious *Paul Barbette* declares this Diſtemper only curable by Internals; and the Learned *Bartholine* (tho' a Surgeon) is of the ſame Mind. "*Strumæ* (ſaith *Cornelius Celſus*) have always "given much Trouble and Vexation to Surgeons, "becauſe, after the beſt Care and Methods have "been apply'd for their Extirpation, they are "found to gain a new Birth." In my ſelf, and divers other Perſons, I have known theſe Tumours laid open by Inciſion, and the Glands quite conſumed with *Eſcharoticks*. And yet afterwards the ſame Humour hath broken out a-freſh with greater

Violence; which plainly ſheweth, there is no conquering this Adverſary without the inward Applications of ſome ſpecial Medicine, able to extinguiſh the Cauſe (whatever it be) throughout the whole Body. I have known ſome People afflicted with this Diſtemper, whoſe Plaiſters would not ſtick, but drop off after their taking this *Specifick* Liquor and Powder for ſome time; and others, where the Diſeaſe hath violently ſeized their Eyes, the Inflammations and Soreneſs decreaſed by inward Application only, which is a plain Confirmation of the Truth of this Maxim, common among Phyſicians, *Sublata cauſa tollitur effectus.*

After I had fully experienced the Excellency and Uſefulneſs of this Medicine in my own Caſe, I thought my ſelf obliged, in Charity, to make it publick; that others, if they pleas'd, might reap the ſame Benefit by it, as, bleſſed be God, I had done. And, I conceive, I have ſome Reaſon to eſteem my ſelf capable of helping thoſe who at any time ſhall deſire my Aſſiſtance. For, beſides the Knowledge (which God hath bleſſed me with) of this *Specifick Remedy*, I have likewiſe gain'd ſome other Skill from my paſt Sufferings, which I reckon may be very conducive to the Cure of this Diſtemper, as what Tumours are Scrofulous, and what are not. I know as well the Temper and Conſtitution of People afflicted with the *Evil*, as I did my own, and can eaſily tell when they will ſuffer Pain, and when not; when their Sores will run little or much; at what Seaſons their Swellings will riſe or fall; and when they will break, and the like. Of theſe Things I have given a ſatisfactory Account, as divers People will bear me Witneſs. *Montague's Eſſay.* Phyſick (as a certain Author hath long ſince obſerved) doth always profeſs to have Experience for the Proof of its Operations. And it was *Plato*'s Opinion, that in order to be a true Phyſician, a Man ſhould firſt ſuffer

all

all those Diseases he pretended to cure, and pass thro' all those Accidents and Circumstances he was to judge of in others. This, I must confess, is a severe Position; and if no Man were to practise but upon these Conditions, I fancy, Physick would have but few Professors; tho' doubtless, the best Knowledge is ever gain'd by a Man's own Experience and Observation, which, as *Celsus* observes, *Is the principal Thing to inform Men in a right Method of Cure.* Aphr. 10. Sect. 9.

"Of all Sorts of Instructions, (saith Sir *William Temple*) the best are gain'd from our own Thoughts and Experiences; for tho' a Man may grow learned by other Mens Thoughts, yet he will become wise or happy only by his own." Misc. *p.* 133. I can truly say, the first Steps towards my own Recovery, were a Change of Thoughts against the Stream of Vulgar Opinions. Those Remarks and Observations which I made of Things hurtful or beneficial to me in the Way of Living, afforded me much better Light toward my Cure, than all the Instructions I had seen in Physical Authors. Several Eatables, though forbidden by Physicians, did me considerable Service; and I have reason to think there may be Specifick *Diets*, as well as Medicines: The ancient Physicians seem to intimate as much. *The Usefulness of Diet.* Hipp. de Diæta. *It is impossible*, saith *Galen*, *that the Humours should not partake of the Substance and Qualities which the Food had before it was eaten*; the Truth whereof we learn by every Day's Experience, from those ill Effects of an improper *Diet*: In some measure among the Healthy, but more especially among the Diseased, it often produceth those Mischiefs in a few Hours, which several Months shan't be able to retrieve; and therefore it's a Matter of great Importance, that diseased Persons be well advised in their *Diet*; which some of the ancient Physicians reputed the Origin of good or

bad

bad Temperaments. And herein I think my ſelf not unqualified, to give thoſe neceſſary Directions, which, if obſerved, would prove of very great Uſe and Service to Perſons afflicted with this *Evil Humour*: Good Management, in this Reſpect, I find, (tho' it will not abſolutely cure this Diſeaſe) is highly uſeful, and very efficacious, to aid, aſſiſt, and give an Energy to the Operation of proper Medicines.

Another Thing, which, by my own Experience, I found to have a commanding Power in this Diſtemper, in giving Pain or Eaſe, was the Quality or Diſpoſition of the *Air* *: Wherein I was ſo critical in my Obſervations, that upon the leaſt Turn or Change of the Weather, I knew as well what I was to expect, as if a Meſſenger before-hand had given me Warning. And whoſoever undertakes the curing of this Diſeaſe, will find ſuch Obſervations of great Uſe, not only to direct him in the Cure, but alſo to prevent Perturbations of Mind, in thoſe who labour under this Diſtemper, ariſing from its Ebbings and Flowings, which, indeed, are very ſudden and ſurprizing. If any one thinks theſe and ſuch like Obſervations are Trifles, let him enjoy his Opinion: In the mean time it's my Judgment, whoever carelesly neglects theſe Things, will have no great Succeſs with this Diſtemper. The Divine *Hippocrates* hath in ſeveral of his Aphoriſms, fully ſhewed the Uſefulneſs of ſuch Obſervations, to direct Men in their Methods of curing Diſeaſes. *Change of Seaſons are the moſt effectual Cauſes of Diſeaſes, and ſo are the Alterations of Cold and Heat in thoſe Seaſons, and other*

And of Air.

Hip. Aphor. Sect. 3. p. 44.

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* *The Country* Air, *where it can be had, is preferable to the City for Perſons ſubject to this Diſeaſe.* Enfield-Green *I eſteem the ſweeteſt and moſt temperate ſo near* London, *having obſerved ſomething peculiar in that* Air *more than any other, advantagious to Conſumptive People.*

Things

Things proportionable. If diſtemper'd People obſerved theſe Things, they would not blame their Phyſicians in many things, when the Cauſe is purely owing to the Weather. Neither would others upon every little Indiſpoſition, ſubject themſelves to Phyſick and Phlebotomy, when a contrary Change of the *Air* would ſet them right. Dr. *Wainewright*, in his Book of *Non-Naturals*, hath clearly demonſtrated what great Alterations are made in our Bodies, according to the various Changes of the *Air*; and affirms that from ſuch Notice, better Indications may be taken both for the Prevention and Cure of moſt Diſeaſes, than from any other *Source* whatſoever. *The Animal Oeconomy* (ſaith Dr. *James Keil*, with great Truth) *is it ſelf a conſiderable Part of Natural Philoſophy, and our Bodies are ſo ſtrongly influenced by Variety of* Diets, *and ſo many other Things without, that, indeed, the whole Study of Nature ſeems to be uſeful to him that would underſtand it.* *Herodotus*, an ancient Author, tells us, that in *Egypt* Phyſicians were obliged to apply themſelves to the Study and Improvement of but ſome one Diſeaſe. *Every Phyſician*, ſaith he, *hath one Diſeaſe for his Province, and no more*, &c. The Deſign whereof, doubtleſs, was very good, and of great Uſe to the Republick of Phyſick: Becauſe hereby Phyſicians acquir'd a more certain and perfect Knowledge of the Nature and Diſpoſition of particular Diſeaſes, and of things hurtful and beneficial in each Diſtemper; and conſequently, were better able to fence againſt all ill Accidents and Revolutions ariſing from the various Changes of the Weather, or improper Diets, and many evil Habits, whereunto each Diſeaſe hath a direct Tendency. " If one Phyſician (ſaith Dr. " *Sydenham*) had treated but of one Diſeaſe, the *Art* " of Healing had by this Time come to as great Per- " fection as our mortal Conditions would allow of.

Page 65.

Dr. Keil *of Animal Secretion.*

Lib. 2. Sect. 82.

The

The divine *Hippocrates* formed his Practice from Experience and Obſervation on particular Diſeaſes. *To underſtand the Art of Phyſick, is to know throughly the peculiar Conſtitution of every Seaſon, what there is generally good and bad in each Man's Diſtemper, the State and Criſis of every Diſeaſe, to whom, when and how, Victuals muſt be given. He that knows and makes a right Uſe of theſe things, cannot be miſtaken in the Art of Healing.* To the ſame Purpoſe

3 Epid. 3. p. 156.

ſpeaketh *Cornelius Celſus*; *Neither ought the Phyſician to be ignorant of the Nature and Conſtitution of the Patient, whether his Body be moiſt or dry, whether ſtrong or infirm, whether ſeldom or often Sick*, &c.

Aphor. 13. p. 236.

Of theſe Particulars, I take all poſſible Care to inform my ſelf, from every Perſon with whom I am concern'd, and ſhould be glad, if Perſons labouring under this Diſtemper, living in remote Parts, when they write to me, would ſend an exact Account of their peculiar Habits of Body, in what Parts they are afflicted, and how long.

As I judged theſe no improper Qualifications for one who undertook to help others, ſo, bleſſed be God, I have met with an anſwerable Succeſs. As I treat others, as I did my ſelf, ſo I find the very ſame common Effects. Their Sores run with the ſame Flux of Matter upon taking this *Specifick Remedy* as mine did. Thoſe painful Operations of *Cutting*, *Cauterizing*, and the like, (which one of the greateſt Surgeons we have had, long ſince declar'd, were more fatal and dangerous than the Diſeaſe it ſelf) are by the inward Application of this *Specifick Remedy* rendred uſeleſs and unneceſſary. The common Rules and Directions preſcribed in this Caſe, are as uſeleſs to me as Crutches to a ſound Man: My Materials are not collected from *Pharmacies* (more diſeaſed than our Bodies). I am able, with God's Bleſſing, to do the Buſineſs, without inflicting

The ſame Effects generally common to all other People.

flicting thoſe Torments attending *manual Operations*. I have a Box of Scales and foul Bones, the largeſt that ever was ſeen, driven out by this Anti-Strumatick Liquor. Their *Urine* likewiſe I have frequently obſerved as thick and ropy as my own uſed to be; and tho' they are never ſo Weak and Lame, yet I always find their Strength daily increaſing, as mine did. It's a common Complaint among thoſe who have taken Diet-drinks, made of *Guiacum*, *Sarſaphras*, *Mizerion*, and the like, for any Time; that theſe Remedies ſpoil their Stomachs, and burn them up with Feveriſh Heats: But this *Specifick* hath quite contrary Effects, wonderfully invigorating the *Spirits*, preſerving the Appetite, and reſtoring it when loſt; and is of that *mundifying*, *healing*, *drying Quality*, that ſome inveterate Ulcers have been cured therewith by an outward Application only. For ſore, weak, and enflamed Eyes, or where the Sight is obſtructed with *Miſts*, *Clouds*, *Films*, and *Pearls*, there is no better Ophthalmick in the World. Neither did I ever know this Humour break out afreſh upon any Perſon cur'd by this Method, no more than it hath done on me above theſe twenty Years paſt; the Truth whereof I can make appear by a Cloud of Witneſſes, from their own Experience. Neither do I encourage People to enter upon this Method of Cure, if I have not ſome Hopes and Proſpect of Succeſs.

It's hard to ſay poſitively, who are curable, and who not; This laſt Year I cured a Man and ſix of his Children, before I was able to effect any good on a young Woman (in appearance not near ſo bad) in the ſame Neighbourhood. Perfect and abſolute Cures in all Caſes cannot be expected, becauſe, as *Celſus* obſerves, *Cauſes* and *Conſtitutions* are *ſo various, that we loſe our ſelves ſometimes in thoſe very Accidents whereof we ſeem to have the greateſt Certainty and Experience.* And therefore, ſaith he, "Confidence and "Preſumption in the *Art* of *Phyſick*, *are the true Cha-* "*racteriſticks* of *Quacks* and *Medical Impoſtors*.

So far as I am able to judge from the large Experience I have had, firſt on my ſelf, and now upon others, one of the greateſt Difficulties in making a compleat Cure of this Diſtemper in moſt People, with this Method, is Length of Time, which many have not Patience to ſubmit to, not conſidering the Stubbornneſs of this Diſeaſe, above all others; that Nature being brought very low, and worn out, in a manner, with a long Duration of the Illneſs, together with the emaciating Methods in common Uſe, cannot ſo ſoon accompliſh the Concoction and Deſpumation of the Morbifick Matter, as they could wiſh: It is in this Diſeaſe, as in all other Chronical Diſtempers, the Cauſe is paſſed into a Habit, and is become, as it were, a ſecond Nature. And therefore it is not to be expected, that ſome ſmall and ſhort Alteration ſuper-induced upon the Blood and Humours by any ſort of Remedy or Diet, can perfect a Cure: Since the whole Habit of Body muſt be changed, and the whole Man (if I may ſo expreſs it) muſt be as it were new created. For want of conſidering theſe things, People are eaſily ſeduced to try variety of Medicines, but with ſo little Advantage, that they oftentimes run themſelves into greater Evils; according to that Obſervation, long ſince deliver'd by the Lord *Bacon*, *That as Variety of Medicines is the Off-ſpring of Ignorance, ſo many Medicines have cauſed few Cures.*

Natural Hiſt. of Life and Death.

Whoever knows any thing of the late Dr. *Ratcliffe*'s Practice, muſt allow he gave the leaſt Medicines, and the feweſt Compoſitions of any Phyſician: The uniting Forces (as one ignorantly talks) to ſcour every *Gland Veſſel* and *Cell of the whole Body*, may delude thoſe who know no better; but Men of Probity, Learning and Experience, are ſenſible that Medicine is always moſt effectual in its Native Dreſs, ſeldom better'd but often ſpoiled in its Virtues, with additional Mixtures to quicken its *Energy*, *Credo ſimplicia in ſua ſimplicitate*, ſaith their great

great Maſter *Galen*, *eſſe ſufficientia pro ſanatione omnium Morborum.*

When Men talk of variety of Medicines and Methods of Cure; "As neceſſary to anſwer all thoſe "ſeveral Symptoms and Indications, which this or "any other Diſtemper may require, tho' their Ar-"guments be plauſible, and perhaps ſometimes true," *viz.* Yet, as it often cometh to paſs, that different Symptoms proceed from one and the ſame Cauſe, ſo whatever ſingle Remedy will effectually remove that Cauſe, will as certainly remove the ſeveral Symptoms or Effects thereof. Few Diſeaſes for Inſtance ſhew themſelves in a greater variety of Forms, or are attended with more various Symptoms than *Fevers* and *Agues*; and yet the *Cortex* prudently exhibited, will take off all thoſe different Symptoms without the Aſſiſtance of any other Applications. So alſo in Venereal Caſes, Patients have many different Complaints, which ſeem to require different Applications; but yet it's evident in Fact, that upon the ſole uſe of *Mercurials* skilfully adminiſtred, all thoſe numerous Grievances come to an end. By Parity of Reaſon therefore, altho' nothing more common than *Fevers*, *Conſumptions*, *violent Pains*, *&c.* among Perſons afflicted with the *King's Evil*; yet as theſe are not Diſtempers ariſing from different Cauſes, but the real Effects of one and the ſame, what need is there of multiplying Remedies for the Removal thereof? I have ſeen Multitudes of People (young and old) afflicted with this Diſtemper, but could never obſerve any remarkable difference of Temper or Conſtitution, or any conſiderable Variation of Symptoms among them, otherwiſe than what the Diſeaſe naturally produceth in common. When the Courſe of theſe Humours are controuled otherwiſe than Nature deſigned; when that peccant Matter is recalled back into the Blood which Nature had thrown off to the Extremities of the Body, no wonder if ſuch poor Wretches are almoſt deſtroyed with

Stomach Sicknesſes, Gripes, Faintings, and a large Troop of other irregular *Symptoms*, more grievous than the Evils intended to be removed: In ſuch Caſes (which are but too common) the Life of the Patient may be in hazard, which before was in no danger, ſince that *Art which ſhould follow the Directions of Nature, is otherwiſe employed to thwart her Endeavours, by a raſh Application of Medicines.* To theſe Obſervations I may add anorher of equal Truth, that the moſt authentick Evidences of a Man's curing this or any other Diſeaſe, are not ſufficient to ſatisfie ſome People prepoſſeſs'd with Prejudices; ſo that if a Man were morally certain of curing any one Diſtemper, yet he would find it a difficult Point to convince ſome, tho' he produc'd an hundred Inſtances of his Succeſs. And the Reaſon may be this, becauſe Phyſicians, and thoſe depending on them, have in all Places ſo much decry'd all Perſons and Things, excluſive of their own Knowledge and Practice, that People think there's no *Balm* in *Gilead* but what's in their Hands. And yet Phyſicians have acknowledg'd that the Art of Healing was originally derived from the ignorant and unlearned *. Nay, ſometimes (ſay they) the Fowls of the *Air*, and the Beaſts of the Field, have, by the Exerciſe of their natural Inſtincts, directed conſidering Men to ſuch Medicines, as with-

Hiſt. of Phyſ. pag. 4.

Tentamina, &c. *Jac. Keil*, M. D. *p.* 11.

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* *If any Credit may be given to* Pliny, *we ſhall have no reaſon to boaſt of the Invention of* Phyſick, *two great Operations in that* Art *having been owing to two inconſiderable Creatures*, viz. Bleeding *and* Purging; *the firſt to* Hippopotamus, *a River-Horſe*; *the latter to* Ibis, *a ſmall Bird in* Egypt.

The Natives (ſaith Monſieur Pomet) *found out the Virtue of the* Balſam Capivi, *by means of certain Hogs in thoſe Parts, who preſently when they were wounded, would ſtrike their Teeth againſt the Trunks of theſe Trees, from whence the Balſam would flow out into their Wounds; and this they would continue till they were perfectly well.* Hiſtory of Drugs, *p.* 208.

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out ſuch Indications, perhaps their Reaſon and Skill would never have brought to light.

Dictamnum genitrix cretæa carpit ab Ida
Puberibus caulem foliis & flore comantem
Purpureo, non illa feris incognita capris
Gramina cum tergo volucres hæſere ſagittæ.
Virg. Æn. 12.

And for as much as it hath pleaſed God that I ſhould be perfectly cured by this *Specifick* Remedy, after I had, in vain, tried all other Methods, and ſince I have by it cured ſo many others (of which I am at all times ready to make undoubted Proof) and daily find it ſo effectual, that I deſpair of none, provided they will be governed, and are not quite exhauſted before they come under my Hands: therefore I cannot but appeal to all unprejudiced and diſintereſted Perſons, whether I ought not to make uſe of the Gift God hath imparted to me, and do what lies in my Power to help my Fellow-Creatures; although I do not ſet out with the Name of a Doctor in form, or pretend to have found out new Syſtems in Phyſick; for (as Dr. *James Keil* ſays in his Preface to the Account of Animal Secretion) "Moſt" Pag. 20.
"Theories of Diſeaſes are built upon Principles of "natural Philoſophy; and therefore we can never "have any Certainty, or indeed ſo much as a De-"gree of Probability, that the Indications drawn "from them are right, or ſuch, as if anſwered, would "cure the Diſeaſe." And, indeed, moſt of our Phyſicians Writings are full of Invectives againſt the Opinions of their Predeceſſors, and of Endeavours to eſtabliſh ſome darling *Hypotheſes* of their own Coining: And therefore one might wonder, why a Doctor, who from his Books has his Head fill'd with Notions and Opinions, ſo inconſiſtent with, and diſagreeable to each other, ſhould, *ipſo facto*, become

come fitting to be truſted with Peoples Lives, tho' that fitneſs conſiſts chiefly in being acquainted with what Authors, ſo diſagreeing among themſelves, have written on that Subject, but without his having Experimentally known the Truth or Falſhood of what his Authors aſſert; for his Preſcriptions being made *ſecundum Artem*, or in other Words, according to the Mode then in Vogue, are, as to him, only Traditions from others; ſo that whether this does indeed and in truth, qualifie and enable a Man to cure Diſeaſes, tho' it may have the Sanction of the Law to authorize his Practice, let any capable Perſon determine.

I am not inſenſible, that ſome of our Modern Doctors, *viz. Mead, Friend, Keil, Pitcairne*, &c. deny, as much as poſſible, the *Theories, Syſtems*, and *Hypotheſes*, which have been eſteemed by many Phyſicians of great Name, not only branding them as falſe, but accuſing them as hurtful: And now they have ſtarted the Notion of introducing the Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences into Medicine, and that they have attain'd Demonſtration and Certainty for their Foundations, and in conſequence thereof, Health and aſſured Benefit to their Patients for the Superſtructure. I muſt confeſs nothing could be invented in this *Mathematical* Age, to make People think better of theſe Gentlemen, and their Profeſſion; for if a Doctor is able to prove that what he preſcribes ſhall as infallibly cure a Diſtemper, as 'tis proved that the three Angles of a Triangle are equal to two right Angles, then ſurely thoſe that are bleſſed with this Science of Healing, cannot be enough honour'd.

Now in order ſomewhat to examine into this, which may amuſe even Men of Learning, unleſs they enquire into it, much more the illiterate, I deſire to premiſe, that I ſhould think it unpardonable to offer any thing which might look like depreciating the Mathematicks in any degree, it being indiſputable, that

that they have an intrinſick Worth in themſelves, and tend to habituate the Mind to a cloſe nervous Way of thinking on other Subjects; and therefore I would be underſtood, that my Aim is only to enquire, Whether the Mathematick and Mechanick Sciences are really applicable in the Medicinal *Art*.

'Tis almoſt needleſs to mention that which every one who is in the leaſt converſant in the Mathematicks will readily agree to, *viz.* that without ſufficient *Data* or Premiſſes laid down, no Argumentations can be begun, no Deductions or Inferences can be made, and much leſs any Concluſions formed: As for inſtance, in plain *Geometry*, if the Length and Breadth of a Figure are known, then the Area or Superficies is eaſily diſcover'd; but if I know the Length and not the Breadth, or *è contrà*, then the amount of the Superficies is not to be found; but if there be not *Data* enough, all my Enquiries are fruitleſs; and if, notwithſtanding ſuch defects of Premiſſes, I will form Concluſions, I only ſhew my Ignorance and Conceit, tho' cover'd over and enveloped with Expreſſions uſed by Mathematicians. And in like manner, if in the *Science* of Medicine there be not ſufficient *Data*, that is, if there is not an infallible, clear, diſtinct, and adequate Knowledge of the Diſeaſe, and of the Virtue and Efficacy of the Medicine to be preſcribed, and if this Knowledge be not to all Intents and Purpoſes, as really and truly comprehended by the Phyſician, as the *Data* in a Mathematical Propoſition, are by him that would form any Deductions from the ſame, then 'tis undeniable, that the infallible Effects of this Medicine cannot be demonſtrated with Mathematical Certainty, and the very pretending thereto looks like an Artifice to perſwade and amuſe the World, that the Profeſſors of Medicine have as much Proof of the real Benefit and Operation of their Preſcriptions, as the Mathematicians have of the Truth of their Propoſitions, and ſeems to be an endeavouring to have

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it thought, that these two Sciences agree in Certainty. And accordingly Dr. *James Keil*, in his Preface to his Book of *Animal Secretion*, says,

Pag. 6. "Since the Animal Body is a pure Machine, and all its Actions from which "Life and Health do flow, are the necessary Consequences of its *Oeconomy*, must not all the Symptoms of Diseases be likewise the necessary Consequences of the Alteration of this *Oeconomy*? and do they not as necessarily flow from this Change, as the Actions by which Life and Health are continued, did flow from the *Oeconomy* before this Change? If, (says he) the Pendulum of such a Length makes a Clock to go exactly true, does not the Alteration of the Pendulum as necessarily cause it to go too fast or too slow; and when all the rest of the Movement is known to be in good Order, does not the quick or slow Motion of the Clock as necessarily shew the Fault of the Pendulum." *It's the same thing as* (he affirms) *in the Animal Body, for the same Reasoning holds good in all sorts of Machines, whose Motions are the necessary Consequences of their Structures.* In like manner Dr. *Mead* in the Preface to his Book *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ, &c.* declares, *That Mechanical Theory consists of Demonstration,*

Pag. 18. *which by his Skill in Geometry, he* (*viz.* the Physician) *either draws from the Figure of the Bodies, or by necessary Induction from the known and manifest Laws of Motion.* And thus the same Author in his Mechanical Account of *Poisons*, asserts, *That if so abstruse Phænomena as these* (*viz.* of Poisons) *come under the known Laws of Motion, it might very well be taken for granted, that the more obvious Appearances in the same Fabrick* (*i. e.* an Animal) *are owing to such Causes as are in the reach of Geometrical Reasoning.* So in like manner Dr. *Friend*, in his *Prælectiones Chymicæ*, argues, *That there being an attractive or gravitating Force in all Bodies, in proportion, to the quantity of Matter contain'd in them, therefore the*

whole

whole Buſineſs of Pharmacy may be reduced to Reaſon and Certainty. This, and a great deal more to the ſame Purpoſe, theſe Gentlemen are pleas'd to publiſh, of the Certainty attained in the Science they profeſs. I wiſh, with all my Soul, that theſe Pretenſions were well founded, and that Mankind might know where to have certain Help for the many Maladies to which they are incident; But by way of Anticipation, I muſt obſerve, that if (as they affirm) all other Hypotheſes, Syſtems, and Theories are falſe and of no worth, then conſequently all Preſcriptions founded on thoſe Miſtakes, ſhould be laid aſide and quite diſregarded, and new Medicines, Recipes, and Remedies, ſuitable to theſe modern Diſcoveries, ought to be introduced for the Cure of Diſeaſes; and yet inſtead of what one might ſo juſtly expect in this Caſe, it's notorious and beyond Contradiction, that no new Diſpenſatory is formed, the Buſineſs of Medicine in general is adminiſtred in the ſame manner now, as when thoſe *Hypotheſes* were predominant which are now ſo much condemned; the *Materia Medica* is the ſame, except the *Bark* and a few other Drugs, brought to light by the ignorant *Indians* (thoſe illiterate Mortals, who value things from the repeated Experiences of their Efficacy, without pretending Scientifically to demonſtrate how they operate) and all the Alteration is, that as the Effects of Medicine were formerly endeavoured to be accounted for, according to the *Theories* then received: So now every Operation in Medicine is pretended to be ſolved by *Geometry*, or according to the Laws of *Attraction*, *&c.* they have, indeed, invented another manner of Talking on this Subjects, but the matter of their Preſcriptions is ſubſtantially and really the ſame as before; ſo that the Change by them made, conſiſts of Words and not of Things; and tho' this Device may captivate the unwary, and for ſome time even puzzle the Wiſe, yet the diſeaſed part of Mankind receive no real Benefit thereby, as is evi-

dent in those Treatises where these new Notions are broach'd; for Dr. *Mead* in his Book of Poisons, or in that *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ, &c.* Dr. *Friend* in his *Prælectiones Chymicæ*, Dr. *Cheyne* in his new Theory of Fevers, Dr. *Keil*, in his Book of *Animal Secretion*, Dr. *Pitcairne*, nor any other of the Modern *Virtuosi*, have discover'd any new Remedies for the curing the Maladies whereof they treat; but only endeavour in a new Manner, to account for the Operation of those Medicines which were commonly used long before they were born: And whether all this is of much real value, let any unprejudiced capable Person determine.

But having thus a little digress'd, I should have attempted directly to investigate, how far these Gentlemen have indeed introduced Mathematical and Mechanical Sciences into Medicine, had they not, in some Places of their Works, expresst themselves so as to make one think, they rather wish'd for than pretended to have attain'd the Certainty they speak of, and that the Treatises before-mention'd, were intended for Essays how far they could succeed in that Matter, and not for Proofs that they had; particularly Dr. *Mead*, in his Book of *Poisons*, has these very Words, *viz.* for indeed, "the *Data* from which we "argue in these Matters are by many too few"; and Dr. *James Keil*, in his before-mention'd Book of *Animal Secretion*, says, That natural *Philosophy, and the Histories of Diseases must go hand in hand in the improving the Art of Curing. It is not possible* (says he) *to make use of the last, without the Knowledge of the first.* In the same Book the Author asserts, *That most of the late Histories of Diseases, are only Philosophical Romances, and contain nothing of that diligent Observation of Nature, which gained* Hippocrates *immortal Honour, and without which* (he affirms) *it is impossible, that even the Art of Physick should be improved.* And the last named in his late Book called, *Tentamina Medico-Physica*, in the Preface speaks thus, *I don't pretend that*

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the Explications of the Animal Oeconomy are to be eſteemed as certain and perſpicuous as the Propoſitions of Geometry, I wiſh they were, &c. And he there further tells us, That *the Science of Healing is not ſtraight to be rejected, becauſe it contains a great many things that are falſe, many that are only probable, and but very few that are evidently true; nothing is invented and perfected at once.*

I confeſs I cannot account for it, that after ſuch Acknowledgments and Conceſſions of the Defect and Inſufficiency of the *Data* or Premiſſes from whence Deductions are to be made, and Concluſions drawn, according to the celebrated Method of Mathematicians: yet that theſe Medicinal Gentlemen ſhould talk of ſuch a Certainty in their Science, as may be compared with the Perſpicuity and Verity which is inſeparable from Mathematicks, and indeed ſuch Pretenſions are utterly inconſiſtent with the before-mention'd Acknowledgments, for (as before has been hinted) every *Tiro* in Mathematicks, knows, that in thoſe Sciences, (*viz.* Arithmetick and Geometry, for mixt Mathematicks, as they are called, are rather Applications than Branches of what is truly Mathematical) nothing is admitted but of ſuch a Nature as muſt conſtrain the Aſſent of every one aſſoon as he underſtands the Propoſition, and its Demonſtration; the Definitions are clear and diſtinct; the *Poſtulata* ſuch as none of common Senſe can refuſe to grant; the Axioms are ſelf-evident; the Deductions irrefragable, or where they fail of being ſo, are exploded as of no worth; and in fine, whatever is truly Mathematical cannot be contradicted when 'tis underſtood; and therefore, (upon Suppoſition of the Defects before confeſſed) 'tis impoſſible there ſhould be as much evidence attainable in Medicine as in Geometry, and that Inferences made from Premiſſes declared to be imperfect, ſhould equalize, in Truth, thoſe that can't be contradicted by the moſt rigorous Opponent. 'Tis not to be denied, that if a Diſtemper, and the Medicines to

be apply'd, were of ſuch a Nature as to be as fully comprehended as Geometrical Propoſitions, then the Conſequences would be unqueſtionable; but ſeeing 'tis not ſo in Fact, and themſelves have acknowledged it not to be ſo, then what becomes of the pretended Mathematical Certainty in Phyſick; for either theſe Modern *Literati* are in the right when they talk of the Defect of thoſe Fundamentals or *Data* before-mention'd, and then the whole Scheme is like a Caſtle in the Air, without ſufficient Support, and tumbles of it ſelf, or by the leaſt puff of Wind: Or they are greatly overſeen, in thus branding the Cauſe they ſeem to have eſpouſed; I ſay ſeem to have eſpouſed, for I cannot but think them Men of greater Penetration, than that they ſhould be guilty of ſuch an Inconſiſtency, as to affirm that to be Mathematically certain, which they know and confeſs is not ſo. But, perhaps, theſe Gentlemen having obſerved the advantageous Uſe that has been made of Mathematicks in natural Philoſophy by one of the Glories of our Nation, and a very *Columbus* in the intellectual World, I mean Sir *Iſaac Newton*, were thence tempted to try how far Mathematicks might be made ſerviceable in Medicine; and tho' their Endeavours may have been very laborious, and their Speculations extreamly ſubtil, yet till ſome Point of Stability is found whereon to fix, there can be no practical Uſe of Mathematicks in the Medicinal Science, and the Suppoſition of ſuch a Diſcovery, when 'tis not ſo in reality, reſembles the many late Attempts for finding the Longitude, which when the Projectors modeſtly offer to the Publick, for exciting others to try how far the propoſed Schemes may be perfected and made uſeful; then ſuch Propoſals, tho' very defective, cannot be unacceptable to Men of Candour and Benignity; but if any of the Longitudinarians, with aſſurance give out their Inventions as perfect and practicable, and when by Men of cooler Heads

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they are found to be otherwiſe, 'tis not very ſtrange, if inſtead of Applauſe they meet with ſome thing of a contrary Nature: The Application of this Compariſon is obvious, and how unwarrantable 'tis to pretend that the Elements of Diſeaſes and Medicines are diſcoverable, with an Evidence and Certainty comparable to what the Mathematicians have attained.

Nor can it be more eaſily admitted, that becauſe an Artificer can regulate or adjuſt the Motions belonging to a Machine (ſuppoſe a Watch) of which, as to its Mechaniſm, he may be ſaid, in ſome Senſe, to have been the Creator, and of whoſe Eſſence or Conſtitution he has a perfect *Idea*, that in like manner, a Doctor ſhall have as compleat and adequate Knowledge of the Productions of the great Creator, who is as incomprehenſible in his Eſſence as in his Works: The pretending to this would verify the ſaying of *Job*, *But vain Man will be wiſe, tho' he be born like the wild Aſſes Colt.* And I believe *Job* ii. v. 12. it's undeniable, that how much ſoever any Men have advanced in real Science, ſo much the more have they experimentally known their Inability fully to underſtand the Works of God; and of this we have a living Inſtance in the never enough to be admired Sir *Iſaac Newton*, who modeſtly acknowledgeth, "That the very Subſtances themſelves, even of "Bodies, we cannot come at the Knowledge of, "either by any of our Senſes, or by any reflex "Act of the Mind: And this illuſtrious Author, ſpeaking of the *Attraction* or *Gravitation* of Bodies, concludes thus, "But the Cauſe of theſe Properties "of Gravity, I have not yet found deducible from "*Phænomena*.

But that I may not needleſly enlarge, I would ſuppoſe, that a Doctor ſhould indeed pretend to the practical Uſe of *Mathematicks* in Medicine, and is to preſcribe to one who has a Chronick or Habitual Diſeaſe. [For as to acute Diſtempers, ſuch as violent Fevers, Pleuriſies, and the like, there the Diſeaſe ſoon conquers

quers the Patient, or the Patient the Diſtemper; if the latter happens, then the Victory made by Nature affords Laurels to the Phyſician, and it would look like an envious Detraction from the Doctor's Skill, to attribute the Recovery to the Strength of the Patient's Conſtitution, or ſome Criſis of Sweating, &c. which might have enſued, tho' the Phyſician had been unconſulted.] Now admitting that this Doctor knows that a *Drug* operates or gravitates after ſuch a manner, in a Fluid compoſed of ſuch Ingredients as he has mixed together, can he therefore infallibly aſcertain and determine how this ſame Drug ſhall operate on the Fluids of a Human Body, unleſs he clearly and diſtinctly knew the Ingredients of one Compoſition as well as of the other, and unleſs he knows, and perfectly comprehends, how much the Fluids are alter'd from their original Rectitude, and what Reſiſtances they meet with in paſſing through Organs that are vitiated, and which particularly are depraved, and which remain perfect, and how far the Organs and Fluids of the Animal will be affected by the intended Medicine; and, in ſhort, unleſs he diſtinctly and clearly underſtands every thing of the Animal and its Fluids, and the Meanders through which theſe paſs in a State of Health, and in what manner, and how much, exactly, all thoſe things are now altered by Sickneſs; and unleſs he is ſure, that the ſick Man's Mind ſhall not, by any Paſſion of Joy or Grief, accelerate or retard the Motions of the Humours; and without he fully knows the particular Idioſyncraſy or Peculiarities of his Patient's Conſtitution; if any of theſe Pre-requiſites are wanting, is it not evident, that the Effect of whatever is preſcribed is altogether incapable of Mathematical Demonſtration, and at moſt can be only gueſſed at, and not known *à Priori*, that is, it cannot be infallibly determin'd, in what manner, and to what degree the Patient will be affected by the Preſcription intended.

Having

Having thus endeavoured to shew, that the Pretence of bringing Mathematicks into Medicine, is hitherto without any solid Foundation, so I find, that some of the Professors of Physick are so far from espousing such Notions, that they, with some keenness, animadvert on this new Sect of Mathematical Doctors, particularly Dr. *Blackerby Fairfax*, at the *Botanick* Meeting at *Hampstead* this present Year: *I know not*, says he, *how sufficiently to admire, that natural History and comparative Anatomy, which have been so commendably cultivated among us by our Physicians for many Years past, should of late be laid aside for the Study of the Mathematicks, as if the Eternal Idea, built by Mechanick Powers and Human Modules were to be compared with Divine. The Earth is to be measured; Sound is to be set to Tune; and even the immense Space of the Heavens is reducable to Mensuration: But who shall reduce to Measure that which our Sight can't attain to, our Ear be affected with, or our Fingers handle; that there are in an animate Body, Pullies, Rests, Leavers, &c. any Anatomist may, with Plausibility enough, make appear, but who shall measure: Shall I say or define those Animal Spirits, which are the Spring of all Animal Action, that the Blood-Vessels are proportioned to their proper Offices, who doubts; but who shall confine to measure that Lord of the Blood's Circulation, the impulsive Force of the Heart. From Inoculation it is manifest, that the Diversity of contain'd Fluids, depends upon the divers Structures of the secerning Channels; but who shall undertake the Mensuration of the Diameters of those Tubules, which the nicest Glasses can never give us sight of? Are these Foundations proper for* Algebraical Æquations *to be built upon? Is this the genuine Use of that great Art* Mathematicks? *And after all, what so great Matters toward improving the* Therapeutick *Art have these Mathematical Physicians brought us? One of them, at great Expence of* Algebra, *proves, that the Motes, which in Scotomias, we seem to have in our Eyes, are not real Bodies*

Oratio Apologetica.

lies fluctuating in them. Another demonstrates, that the Power Poisons *have to quench Life, proceeds from aculeated Particles they are composed of. Great Discoveries indeed, and worthy of so much clutter. Thus do some vainly admire the false Powers of Human Understanding, while they neglect the true ones; they are for contriving new Laws of Nature, while they pass by known ones of greater Value.*

I think it would be needless to enlarge further in this Matter, for tho' what has been said may tend to undeceive those who open their Eyes, yet who can make him see who wilfully keeps them shut: I shall therefore conclude with saying, that as for my Pretensions, they are only thus, that whereas I had this Distemper in a very high Degree, and have, with God's Blessing, been my self cured by this Remedy, and many others have received undeniable Benefit thereby; I shall honestly apply the same Means to any Person that desires it, leaving the Success to Almighty God; with this further Declaration, for all Peoples Satisfaction, that if this *Specifick Remedy* should not Cure them, it will certainly do them no Hurt. Not one of those many Hundreds that used it, having ever complain'd of the least Injury thereby. And yet, if any should be so infatuated as to despise my good Intentions, because of the Meanness of the Person, I cannot but in Pity wish them a better State of Mind, and think I have done my Duty in thus proffering my Assistance, which if they refuse, 'tis none of my Fault.

I am, SIR,

Yours, *&c.*

A

Faithful Relation

Of ſome Extraordinary

CURES,

ON

Men, Women, and Children,

Afflicted with the

King's Evil, &c.

The CASE of Charles Welſh.

IT pleaſed God in the Iſland of *Jerſey*, after the *Small-pox* there, to afflict me in a grievous Manner with ſeveral deep and large Ulcers in my Breaſt, then with two others on my right Arm; after theſe followed five more on my left Shoulder;

and laſtly, five others on my left Arm; whereby I was depriv'd of the Uſe of both Arms and Hands, being alſo ſo extream weak and lame, that I could neither go nor help my ſelf. I had all the Advice and Medicines that were poſſible, particularly was under a Courſe of Salivation ſeven Weeks. But thoſe things having no Effect upon me, I was remov'd from thence to St. *Thomas*'s Hoſpital; but meeting with no Advantage, and being diſcharged *Incurable*, I was, by my Friends, then brought to Mr. *Vickers*, a Clergyman, in *Sherbourn-lane*, *Lombard-ſtreet*, *November* 29, 1706. who, beyond his own, and all other People's Expectations, (God be praiſed) wrought a perfect and complete Cure on me, being now as ſound and healthy as any other Perſon whatſoever. I lodge at a Shoe-maker's (Mr. *William Brooks*) next Door to the *Croſs-keys* Inn in *Grace-Church-Street*; where may be ſeen much more of this Cure than is here related by me,

Charles Welch.

N. B. *The Parents of* Charles Welch *are ſince removed to Mrs.* Hunington's *a Stuff-ſhop, the Sign of the* Feathers, *againſt the* Croſs-keys *Inn*, Grace-Church-Street.

I *Joſeph Piercy*, next Door to the Golden Lion in *Chiſwell-Street*, having a Child extreamly afflicted with a white Swelling in one of her Knees, which had ſo diſabled her, that ſhe could neither ſtand nor go; but by God's Bleſſing, and thoſe Means Mr. *Vickers* applied, ſhe was, in the Year 1713, perfectly Cured, and alſo reſtored to the Uſe of her Limbs, ſince which Time, no Sign of Relapſe, or Appearance of the Humour, hath been ſeen about her. Witneſs my Hand,

Joſeph Peircy.

A Young Man having many hard Swellings, with ſome Ulcers under each Jaw, was likewiſe Cured. The Truth whereof may be known at Mr. *Colſton's*, a Toy-ſhop, againſt the *Royal Exchange*, *Cornhill*.

A Child almoſt Blind with a Humour in his Eyes, having alſo a large Ulcer above one of his Eye-lids, with ſome other Breakings-out in his Head and Noſe, was likewiſe cured. The Truth whereof may be known at Mr. *Steel's* againſt *Grange-Court*, *Little Lincolns-Inn-Fields*.

MRS. *Thomas's* Child, who was dark of both Eyes with a ſharp Humour, was likewiſe reſtored to her perfect Sight, as may be ſeen at her Houſe in *Northumberland-Alley*, *Fenchurch-Street*.

MR. *Lambeth*, Field-keeper, at the *Angel-Inn*, in *Iſlington*, whoſe Daughter was blind of both Eyes, and likewiſe afflicted with ſome running Sores in one of her Arms, was Cured many Years ago.

To the Reverend Mr. *Vickers* in *Sherbourn-Lane*, *Lombard-Street*.

SIR,

I Send this to acquaint you, that my Daughter, who was Blind of both Eyes ſeveral Months, is now, by God's Bleſſing, and thoſe Medicines you ſent me, perfectly recover'd: She can ſee to Read, Write, and to Thread the fineſt Needle without the leaſt Trouble or Concern. I pray God to bleſs your Endeavours for the Benefit of others, as he hath done for mine, who am, Your moſt obliged Friend and Servant,

Slanſtead, Feb. 4. 1716-17.

Hertfordſhire. John Traherne.

A Child about 16 Months Old, having a violent Humour in one of his Knees, which had diſlocated the Joint, whereby the Child was diſabled from any Uſe of that Limb, is now perfectly Cured, the ſaid Child being able to ſtand, walk, and go, as other Children do. The Truth whereof may be ſeen at Mr. *Strong*'s Houſe againſt *Wood's-Cloſe*, the upper-end of St. *John's-ſtreet*, whoſe Parents will ſhew the Child to any Perſon deſirous of that Satisfaction.

A Perſon of Quality's Child, ſeven Years Old, whoſe Sight of both Eyes were for ſeveral Months almoſt extinct, with a violent Defluxion of Rheum, and whoſe Noſe and upper Lip was alſo extreamly ſwell'd with the ſame Humour, is now perfectly Cured: The Truth whereof ſhall be manifeſted to any one deſirous of that Satisfaction.

Reverend Sir,

I Hope you are in good Health. I ſhould be glad to ſee you at Halſtead. *My Son, through God's Bleſſing and your Endeavours, is very well: He hath no Kernels in his Neck; his Eyes have not been ſore a long time, and his Sight ſeems to be as good as ever. There is wonderful Notice taken, in theſe Parts, of your Succeſs.* Mr. Morley, *asked kindly after you the other Day. You may aſſure your ſelf I ſhall not be wanting to manifeſt your juſt Praiſes and Commendations to all People. My Wife and Son give their Services to you; ſo praying God to Bleſs your generous Deſigns for all Mankind, I reſt,*

Your humble Servant,

July, 1710. William Holdman.

MRS. *Mary Gold*, lodging at a Thread-Shop againſt the Pump in *Chancery-Lane*, having from her Infancy been much troubled with ſore and weak Eyes; alſo with a violent Humour in her Noſe and upper-Lip, was Cured by Mr. *Vickers*; the Truth whereof

whereof she will own to any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

Mary Flaxman, a Collar-maker's Daughter, about 18 Years of Age, living in *Kingsey*, *Buckinghamshire*, she was afflicted from her Cradle with a violent Inflammation and Fluxion in both her Eyes; her Sight also much obscured with large Specks, her Face, Neck and Shoulders much distemper'd with the same Humour; together with some other Illnesses common to her Sex: The Reverend Mr. *Hoskins*, Minister of the Place, importuned my Help for her Relief, whom I did Assist, and it pleased God that in two Months I Cured her so perfectly, that her Distemper hath not appeared these eleven Years.

Reverend Sir,

No longer ago than Wednesday *Night last, I saw your Patient, Mrs.* Elizabeth Gilson, *who not only looks well, but her Eyes (to all appearance) are as well now as mine: She can see to work with her Needle, without any Offence or Trouble. We have a poor Woman in the Town about* 40 *Years of Age, troubled with the same Distemper from her Cradle; if you can do her any good, pray let me know by the next Post, which will oblige your assured Friend and Servant,*

Rector of *West-Wickham*, *Cambridgeshire*, *December* 2. 1710. Allington Harrison.

N. B. Meeting with Mrs. *Gilson's* Father at *Lynton*, *Sept.* 4. 1718, he then told me, his Daughter, my Patient, was Married; that she had two fine Children living, without the least Sign or Appearance of any *Hereditary Contagion*.

To

To the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, in *Sherbourn-Lane*, *Lombard-Street*.

SIR,

I Received yours, and ſhould be glad to have ſeen you at *Melford*; but as the Length of the Journey prevents your viſiting me, ſo it does my waiting on you at preſent. I have found every thing you ſent me, ſucceed according to your Predictions, and exceed (tho' not my Hopes yet) my Expectations. I could not have thought I ſhould have received ſo much Benefit in ſo ſhort a Time: I am now (bleſſed be God) wholly at Eaſe. My Ulcers are healed up, and the Swellings in my Legs totally aſſwaged: And whereas before I could not ſet my Feet to the Ground, nor ſtand nor go without Crutches or Staff, I can now walk Miles without either. A more deplorable Cripple could not be ſeen in either of your *London* Hoſpitals than I was. I hope in a Fortnights Time to return to College. You have my Leave to communicate this Cure, my Name, and Habitation, to whom you pleaſe; and I pray God to prolong your Days, and make you the happy Inſtrument of doing good to others, who labour under the ſame Afflictions. So I reſt,

Your moſt obliged humble Servant,

Long-Melford, Suffolk. *F. B.*

Reverend Sir,

THIS comes to acquaint you, that my Eyes are now perfectly well, ever ſince I left London; *ſo I hope there is no occaſion for a freſh Supply of your Medicines. I have ſome Thoughts of going to the* Bath *with a Relation; I therefore deſire your Opinion if I may Bathe, or only drink the Waters; what you Adviſe, I will punctually Obſerve. I have alſo another Favour to ask of you; A Friend of mine ſeeing your* Companion to the Altar, *&c. (a Book much admir'd in theſe Parts) would have you to ſend down a Dozen and Half by the firſt Return of our Carrier,*

who

who lies at the Rose-Inn, *at* Holborn-Bridge. *So with mine, and Sister's Services, I am yours,*

M. M.

SIR,

I Am a poor Woman of this place, and have a Daughter which hath been under several Surgeons Hands, for a large hard Swelling in one of her Elbows, which hath contracted the Joint, that she cannot extend her Arm, attended with considerable Pain and Anguish: If you can do her any good, she shall come up, and I will requite you for all your Care and Trouble, to the utmost of my Power.

Buntingford, Hertfordshire, Feb. 26. 1716. Your humble Servant, *Ann Hall.*

N. B. *What Success I had with this young Woman; how strait and sound her Arm is, I appeal to the whole Town of* Buntingford.

MRS. *Pollard*, a Glover's Wife in *Coventry*, she had been afflicted many Years (from her Child-hood) with a Leprous Humour in her Neck, Arms, Thighs, and Legs; for the Cure whereof she had taken great Quantities of *Wood-Drinks* and *Mercurial Purges*, without any Effect. *June* the 6th, 1715. I gave her Directions for Diet, with Prescriptions, which she followed for about a Month, or six Weeks, which effected her Cure. She hath had a fine Child since, without the least Sign or Appearance of any Hereditary Contagion.

SIR,

SInce with God's Blessing, and those Prescriptions you advised, I am now cured of a grievous Distemper, under which I had laboured many Years, I think my self obliged to do you what Services I am able. The Bearer hereof is a Gentlewoman of my Parish, whose Disease hath defeated the Care and

Skill

Skill of moſt Phyſicians and Surgeons in theſe Parts: She is a Mother of many Children, whoſe Loſs would be a conſiderable Misfortune to the Family. This is the firſt Opportunity I have met withal, of recommending you; may God Almighty proſper your Endeavours for her Sake and the Good of others, is the earneſt Prayer of your moſt obliged Friend and Brother in Office,

Chipping-Norton in *Oxford-ſhire*, *Jan.* 13. 1716-17. *Samuel Story.*

Reverend Sir,

I Received yours, which I ſent to the young Lady your Patient, who now, bleſſed be God, is very well recover'd of her Diſtemper, and hopes ſhe may continue ſo: But if otherwiſe, you ſhall hear the firſt Poſt. The Lady gives her Thanks and humble Service to you; and ſo doth your moſt obliged humble Servant,

Rector of *Hickling*, *Nottinghamſhire.* *George Fiſher.*

MRS. *Eliz. Wicks*, of St. *Edmond's-Bury*, who for two Years was dark of both Eyes, with exceſſive Pain in her Stomach, was, in the Year 1710, reſtored to the perfect Sight of both Eyes (enjoying the ſame ever ſince) by Mr. *Vickers*; the Truth whereof, Mr. *James Wicks*, her Brother, will atteſt, living at the Sign of the *Grey-hound*, a Sadler's Shop, the Corner of *Column-Street*, in *Fenchurch-Street*.

SIR,

IF you remember, *Sept.* 13. 1714. I wrote to you concerning a Child of mine, a Boy, about ſix Years of Age, extreamly afflicted with a ſharp corroding Humour in his Head, Neck, Eyes, Noſe, and Lips; you were then pleaſed to preſcribe him Medicines, with Directions, and I do aſſure you, with God's Bleſſing, in two Months Time, they had ſuch

an

an Effect, the Child was as well as any other in the Parish, and hath continued so (God be praised) to this very Writing. If this Account will do you any Service, make what use thereof you please. I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble Servant,

Thistleworth, Jan. 4. 1717. *John Fathers.*

To the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, in *Sherbairn-Lane*, *London.*

Reverend Sir,

THE Impostume in the Head of your poor Patient, *Sarah Green*, did break the last Week: She since finds herself much better, and can move her Arms with ease; her Sores elsewhere are likewise healed, and her Swellings also are assuaged. She desires to know, if she may continue the Use of those Means you have advised; or whether she may discontinue. Your speedy Answer will oblige your humble Servant, and Brother in Office,

April 9. 1708. *Michael Stanhope.*

SIR,

WITH unspeakable Joy I congratulate you with the good News of my Son's Cure, attained, by the Blessing of God, and those Means you advised. I forbore Writing till the Spring and Fall were over, for fear of a Relapse, which, I thank God, I have no Reason to suspect. I intend to be in *London* within a few Weeks, to wait on you my self. Mr. *Jones*, the Child's Apothecary, gives his humble Service to you, and also our Vicar. God Almighty make me Thankful, and Bless your Endeavours for the Good of others, as he hath done for mine: So I rest your most obliged Friend and Servant,

Sept. 9. 1716. *Mary Williams.*

A Gentleman's Daughter in *Bedford-Row*, near *Grays-Inn*, very much troubled with a ſharp Humour in both her Eyes, upon whom all the common Methods, in ſuch Caſes, had been tryed without any Succeſs: But by the Application of thoſe Means I adviſed, in 14 Days ſhe found ſo much Advantage, ſhe could bear the Light of the Sun and Fire without Offence; and in leſs than two Months, her Eyes were as well as any in the Family. I do not mention her Name, but divers People, whom I ſent to enquire of her Parents, have received full Satisfaction.

DR. *Brailsford*, preſent Dean of *Wells*, recommended a young Gentleman to me from St. *John's* College in *Cambridge*, with a large hard Swelling in one of his Elbows. The Humour, or (rather the Application of two Cauſticks) had deprived him of the Uſe of that Joint, that he could not extend his Arm; with a Fomentation, (which I adviſed) applied Morning and Evening, his Swelling was aſſwaged, and afterwards with other Means, his contracted Joint was reduced to its natural Straitneſs and Uſe; A Benefit I could not promiſe; and as ill requited.

MR. *Temings*, at the *Black-Boy* and *Still*, near *Shoreditch* Church, recommended a Youth to me, much diſtempered in his *Eyes*, with a ſharp Humour, and Fluxion of Rheum, who, in two Months Time, by the Application of thoſe Medicines I directed, was perfectly recover'd. The young Man is now an Apprentice to a Diſtiller in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*. The Reverend Mr. *Price*, School-Maſter of *Stoke-Newington*, was an Eye-Witneſs of this Perſon's Cure.

A Practitioner in Phyſick, of good Buſineſs and Repute, about 30 Miles diſtant from *London*, was

pleaſed

pleased to communicate the following Case to me, *Jan.* 19. 1707.

SIR,

IT's my Misfortune to have been afflicted with the *Kings Evil* very near twenty Years. The first Appearance was a large Tumour on my Thigh, which broke and run; several small Pieces of Bone came away with little or no Pain, except at the Times of Dressing. Next followed another such like Tumour, with a throbbing Pain in the *Ingren* of the same Thigh, which was open'd with a *Caustick*, and in about half a Year seemed to be well; but afterwards, the Humour breaking out a-fresh, I felt a Pain hardly tolerable, having little or no Rest Night nor Day, without *Anodynes*; for the Cure whereof I pass'd thro' a Course of Salivation, which did neither check nor alter the Course of the Humours; but afterwards, several scrofulous Kernels appearing in the *Membrana Carnosa*, I was under dismal Consternations, and not knowing what to do, I betook my self unto the habitual Use of a Diet-drink made of the *Woods*, with *Lime* Water, which after long Experience, prov'd as useless as all my other Applications. If therefore, you can do me any Service, I will generously gratify your Endeavours, and likewise make you Amends by many other Recommendations.

I am, SIR, your humble Servant,

R. W.

What Success my Method of Cure had upon this Gentleman, his own Words, in the following Letter, will testify.

Reverend Sir,

I Deferred Writing to you, to see if the Happiness I now enjoy by your Medicinal Advice, was like to last. I thank God I have been well, and free

from any Symptom of my former Humour, above these four Months, and therefore will not trouble you till the next Spring, if occasion be, which I hope not. The next Month I intend to be in *London*, to pay you my Respects and hearty Acknowledgments, for those great Services you have done for me.

I

Your most obliged humble Servant,

Rochester, Nov. 7. 1709. *R. W.*

A Gentleman of a very good Family, afflicted with this Distemper 16 Years, had several large and deep Ulcers in one of his Arms, above the Elbow-Joint; and likewise one large Ulcer on each Shin-bone: His plentiful Fortune had commanded all the Help and Assistance for his Cure this Kingdom afforded; insomuch, that hardly a Man eminent either in *Physick* or *Surgery* escaped him. An Acquaintance of mine told some of his Relations of my Success, with several People whom they knew to be cured by me. But all availed nothing, himself and Relations alledging, that if those great Men, with whom they had already advised, could not cure him, they could not believe me capable of doing him any Service. Sometime after, the Gentleman sends for me, desiring that he might have my *Specifick* Remedy to take inwardly, with all those other necessary Instructions I judg'd conducive to his Cure, except the Dressing of his Sores, which he said were then under the Care and Management of so considerable an Artist, as the Serjeant Surgeon, that, without his Consent, he was not willing to trust me with any outward Applications. I answered, I must do both or none; and upon this we parted, without any Expectations, on my Side, to see or hear more of him; but after a few Days the Gentleman came again, and said he had obtain'd Leave for me to undertake both. I begun his Cure in *April* 1709. my self dressing his

Ulcers

Ulcers every Morning with my *Specifick* Cerecloth and Ointment, and obliging him to drink every Day, at leaſt three Pints of my *Specifick* Liquor. In 2 Months time, thoſe foul Bones, which himſelf and Friends feared I had not Judgment ſufficient to deal with, drop'd out one Morning, when I took off his Dreſſings, and by the following *September*, he had not one Sore or Symptom of the *Evil* about him. After his Cure was finiſhed, he went a Journey on Horſe-back 500 Miles, and I have heard no Complaints of any Relapſe.

A Gentleman living in *Iſlington*, brought his only Son to me, *April* the 10th, 1711. a ſadder Cripple I am confident could not be found in any of our Hoſpitals than this Child was when I began his Cure; few People, but thoſe who knew him, will credit his miſerable Condition, were I to relate it at large, but now (thanks be to God) I may venture to challenge the whole County to ſhew a ſounder, healthier young Gentleman than he is.

REturning from *Weſtminſter*, a young Fellow at the Horſe-Guards offered to carry me Home in his Hackney-Coach *gratis*; ſurprized with the Man's Civility, I aſk'd the Fellow the reaſon of his kind Offer, who ſaid it was in return (tho' a poor one) for Curing him of the *King's Evil*, the Tokens whereof he ſhewed by many Scars in his Face. For my own part, I don't remember the Man was ever in my Hands, but his Name is *Richard Roberts*, living (as he tells me) in the Coach-yard, *Katherine-Wheel-Alley, Weſt-ſmithfield*.

MRS. *Edwards*, who keeps a Fruiterers-Shop againſt the Church in *Greenwich*, had her Son afflicted with a Scurvy hard Swelling under one of his Ears, whoſe Conſtitution was none of the beſt. How the inward Application of this *Specifick* Reme-

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dy should bring this Tumour to a speedy Maturation, I do not pretend to account for, but so it is, the Child had not taken of the Remedy above a Month, but his Swelling broke, run, and discharged it self, and then healed without any other trouble.

A Woman, a Nurse to a Ward in one of our Hospitals, brought her Son to me for the Cure of the *King's Evil* in his Face and elsewhere, at which I was much surprized, considering the Help upon easier Terms she might get for her Son among those knowing Physicians belonging to her House, her Importunity prevailed with me to undertake his Care, which I did, with God's Help, accomplish in seven Months, the young Man now works Journey-work with an Upholsterer in *Fleet-street*, ready upon the least Intimation to vouch the Truth of my Success.

A Gentlewoman in *West-Smithfield* finding the great Advantage the last mentioned young Man had received from my Applications, she consulted me for the Cure of a Scalding, fretting Humour in her Face, Neck, and Shoulders, which had troubled her many Years. I advised her for the future to forbear her Purging, Vomiting, Bleeding, and Blistering, and only to take the *Specifick* Drops, and Powder in her common Table-drink. I forbear saying any thing of the good she found, she will give the best Account to any Person whom I shall send to enquire of her.

A Gentleman's Son living in *Greenwich*, had a very large Tumour on his Knee, which had contracted the Joint that he could not set his Foot to the Ground, which was taken for a white Swelling, besides some Breakings out elsewhere; his Father consulted me *May* 29, 1711. What my Success was in this difficult Case, I have Leave from his Honourable Parents to refer to them, any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

SIR,

SIR,

YOUR little Patient read your Letter with great Satisfaction; the Child, I bleſs God, is hearty and well, grown very fat, and goes without her Irons and Stick, neither hath ſhe any Sores about her. I had a Mind to have the Opinion of two Phyſicians, and both conclude, the Child hath not now any Symptoms of the Evil about her. I am truly your Friend and humble Servant,

K. C.

A Young Gentlewoman, living in St. *Albans* in *Hertfordſhire*, came to my Houſe *Sept.* 10. 1710. She had ſome Swellings on both Sides her Neck, and a filthy Humour continually iſſuing from her Noſtrils. She declared an utter Abhorrence of any kind of Phyſick, rather chuſing to truſt Providence, than to undergo any of thoſe former Troubles and Fatigues, ſhe had been treated with: I aſſured her my Method of Cure would neither give her Trouble nor Confinement. Upon this Condition ſhe was willing to take the *Specifick Remedy* in common Table-Drink, which had ſo good Effect, that the Flux of Matter running from her Noſtrils ceaſed in a Month's Time, and her other Swellings, by the end of the ſecond Month, were all aſſwaged and gone; neither can I learn, after many *Enquiries*, that ſince her Recovery ſhe hath had the leaſt Relapſe. Her ſpeedy Succeſs under my Hands encouraged divers other People in thoſe Parts, afflicted with the ſame Diſtemper to try the like Means; and (I thank God) to their Content and Satisfaction.

Samuel Cook a Jeweller, applied himſelf to me, *Sept.* 31. 1713. for the Cure of his Left Elbow, and the Fore Finger of his Left Hand, the Elbow-Joint was ſo hard and extreamly ſwelled, an eminent Surgeon of this City did affirm no Cure could be

had

had without *Amputation*, the Joint likewiſe was ſo contracted, that to ſave his Life he could not extend it. Under theſe unhappy Circumſtances I did undertake his Recovery; what my Succeſs was, let any one (the young Man being ſince removed to *Banbury*) enquire of his Brother *Tho. Cook* a Jeweller, next Door to the *Half-Moon* Tavern, *Cheapſide*: A greater Cure, I dare appeal to all Mankind, hath not been wrought within the Bills of Mortality theſe twenty Years.

Loving Friend,

IT's three Weeks ſince my little Boy begun to take the Drops and Powders, ſent us by WILLIAM VICKERS, a Clergy-man; ſo I thought my ſelf obliged to let thee know what effect they have had in this time. When my Child begun to take theſe Medicines, his Face and Lips were extreamly ſwelled, his EYES almoſt dark, little or no Sight appearing; but now, thro' Mercy, his ſwelled Face and Lips are reduced to their natural State; he never complains now of any Soreneſs or Uneaſineſs in his EYES, tho' heretofore at times of intolerable Pains. What he eats now is with an Appetite, and his Body in very good Order, tho' he hath taken no Phyſick ſince he begun with the Doctor. He uſed conſtantly to hide himſelf in ſome dark place with his Face on a Pillow, but now all Day long runs about playing with one thing or other. He can't yet open his EYE-lids, but the Doctor writes we word, as the Humour abates they will open of Courſe, whereof I have great Hopes it may be ſo, for I could not have thought ſo great an Alteration in ſo ſhort a time could have been. The Child hath not been ſo hearty and eaſy this three Quarters of a Year, as he is theſe laſt three Weeks. I deſire, the firſt convenient Opportunity after this comes to hand, thou go and drink a Bottle of Wine with the Doctor, and give my kind Reſpects to him, letting him know alſo we have no Powders, nor

ſcarcely

ſcarcely any Drops left. All thy Friends here are in good Health; ſo concludes thy very Loving, and much obliged Friend,

York City, the 16th of the 6th Month. *W. W.*

Another from the ſame Hand.

York, the 17th of the 10th Month.

My very kind Friend,

I Am greatly obliged to thee for the Regard thou haſt had for my Child's Welfare, which I muſt acknowledge has been very great, and thy Endeavours have proved ſucceſsful, for which I am truly thankful. I know *Theodore Ecclyſtone* very well; but my Child's Succeſs is a ſufficient Evidence of thy Judgment, to any one here-away deſirous to enquire, of which I ſhall not be backward in making publick, that thou art a Man of great Skill in this Diſeaſe; having already recommended thee unto ſeveral, particularly unto two of our Friends this laſt Week; but I find ſome are ſo united to this World, that ſooner than part with a little of its Droſs, they will hug about with them a Body of Corruption to their dying Day. I am, with all due Reſpects, thy ſincere Friend, tho' unknown, *William White, jun.*

P. S. *Your former Patient, Mrs.* Eliz. Thompſon *is married.*

HEnry *Sprateley*, a Corporal in Major General *Holmes* Regiment of Foot-Guards, afflicted with many deep and foul Ulcers on each ſide his Throat, extending from Ear to Ear; accidentally meeting with my Book at his Surgeon's Houſe belonging to his Regiment, deſired Leave to read it over. After which, the Man comes directly to me, perſwading himſelf, if I would take him in hand, with God's Bleſſing, he might get his Cure. I bid him firſt ask

leave of Mr. *Wilſon* his Surgeon, and then he ſhould be welcome to my Aſſiſtance, which he ſoon obtain'd. Accordingly I gave him the *Specifick* Liquor for his conſtant Drink, and Dreſſings for his Sores, with Inſtructions how to apply them. Not hearing of the Fellow in ſix Months, I concluded he was dead, and therefore, the 2d of *February* 1713. I called at his Quarters, the *Cock* and *Hoop*, the end of *Chancery-Lane* next *Temple-bar*, where I found the Man in perfect Health, his Ulcers ſound and well; for my part I had never ſeen a poor Fellow in a worſe Condition than this Man was.

N. B. *This Mr.* Wilſon *I knew very well; a Man much eſteemed for his Practice and Proficiency in his own Buſineſs, who would often ſay,* He never found the ſtated Methods of *Phyſick* and *Surgery* available in theſe ſtrumous Caſes. *Mr. Serjeant* Wiſeman, *whoſe Skill and Integrity cannot be queſtioned, declares, the* Contumaciouſneſs of this Diſeaſe had not only eluded his beſt Care and Induſtry, but alſo ſome of the ableſt Phyſicians and Surgeons in his Time. In the whole Art of Surgery, *ſaith Dr.* Sprengell, there is nothing more troubleſome and vexatious to the Operator; inſomuch, that after all his Labour and Pains that can poſſibly be employed, and the Application of the moſt approved Medicines, yet it is a very great Rarity if he procures any great Benefit to his Patient. *Several old, able, and experienced Phyſicians and Surgeons, whom my Parents adviſed with for my own Cure, would frankly own they never got any Credit by meddling with this Diſtemper; and therefore accounted it no real Injury to their Practice for any Perſon to free them from that Trouble. For my own part, I can juſtly ſay, not one among an hundred ever ſeek my Aſſiſtance till ſuch time as they have been tired out with (what are eſteemed) the regular Helps of Phyſicians and Surgeons in City and Country.*

Lib. 2. p. 239.

Chirurgiæ Curioſa, p. 87.

A Gentleman living at *Clavering* in *Eſſex*, *Octob.* the 11th, 1713. ſought my Aſſiſtance (by a Friend of his whoſe Son I had cured) for the Relief of his Daughter: The Humour was broke out in her Feet, and they much ſwelled; her Conſtitution alſo was *Hectick*, attended with Leanneſs and a Cough. I adviſed three Spoonfuls of the *Specifick* Liquor, mixed with a Quart of Spring-water for her conſtant Drink, and to give her likewiſe, Morning and Night, five Grains of the *Specifick* Powder, made up in ſome Sugar of Roſes, and to dreſs her Sores Evening and Morning with the *Specifick* Cerecloth. What Succeſs I had in this difficult Caſe, I appeal to the Reverend Mr. *Long*, Miniſter of the Pariſh, to the Child's Parents, and to many others in the Neighbourhood, Eye-witneſſes of her Weakneſs and Recovery.

MRS. *Eſther Smith*, Chamber-maid to a Phyſician's Lady in this City, had a Cluſter of theſe *Scrofulous* Tumours on each ſide her Neck. Her Maſter, ſhe ſaid, had given her abundance of *Calomel*, *Mercurius Dulcis*, with ſome Gallons of the Decoction of the Woods. But finding no Advantage, ſhe deſired my Aſſiſtance, provided I would not let it be known to the Family where ſhe lived: I told her I never mention'd any ones Name or Habitation, if deſired otherwiſe. I convey'd my Remedies, with Directions to her by a ſecond Hand; and in four Months ſhe obtained her Cure. The Swellings waſted away inſenſibly.

A Young Man in *Fore-ſtreet*, near *Moor-fields*, came to my Houſe, *April* 26. 1710. with ſeveral running Sores in his right Elbow. He wanted me to promiſe him a Cure. I told him, if he would try the ſame Means as others had done, he was welcome, but for Promiſes I never made any. He took

of my *Specifick Drops*, fifteen at a time, in his common Table-drink thrice a Day, with Dreſſings for his Sores, and Rules for his Diet. I had no other trouble but to give him what Medicines he wanted, and before *Auguſt*, he had not one Sore or Swelling about him.

MRS. *Eaſtwick*, living at the lower Houſe but one in *Buckingham-Street*, *York-Buildings*, brought her Son to me with ſwelled Lips, and a ſharp Humour in both his Eyes, which had troubled the young Man almoſt from his Cradle. The Gentlewoman was a Perſon of Character and Subſtance, and had ſpared no Expences for her Son's Good. For my part, I ſaw no occaſion for Medicine; the removing an ill Habit the Boy had contracted, I thought might do the Buſineſs, which I adviſed; and therewith diſperſed the Humour from his Lips and Eyes, nor can I hear of any Relapſe ſince 1710.

A Gentleman's Child, much afflicted with this ſtrumous Humour, was put under my Care for her Cure, *Aug.* 16, 1716. in one of her Knees ſhe had a foul Ulcer, which perforated the Bone, threatning, in a ſhort time, a total Deprivation of its Uſe. Her other Sores and Swellings were not near ſo bad. The Child, for the Benefit of the *Air*, was lodged at *Edmonton*, where I attended her three quarters of a Year before her Cure was perfected; of whom I may venture to affirm, without the leaſt colour of Oſtentation, there is not a finer young Woman in that Pariſh than ſhe is; her Parents not ſcrupling, upon the leaſt Intimation, to acknowledge publickly the great Service I have done their Child.

N. B. *The ſame Year, and likewiſe in the ſame Pariſh, I cured three other Gentlemens Children, and a fourth at* Enfield.

A Young Gentlewoman living in St. *John's* Square, came with her Father to my Houſe, *May* 16, 1716. her Lips were much ſwelled, as were alſo both ſides of her Neck. Her Father ſaid, a Gentleman, upon whoſe Recommendation he applied to me, had given him great Hopes (from his own Experience of my Succeſs) I would cure his Child alſo. I told him I ſhould uſe the ſame Care to ſerve his Child as I had done for others; more than this I never promiſed. Accordingly, the young Gentlewoman had ſix Viols of the *Specifick* Drops, and ſome ſmall Papers of the *Specifick* Powder, with Directions how to take them. The Uſe whereof ſhe continued till the following *October*, when her Father and ſhe came to my Houſe with their Thanks and Acknowledgments for my good Services. And if the Teſtimony of my Succeſs in this caſe, will convince ſome Unbelievers, I have the Gentleman's leave to ſend them to his Houſe for their Conviction.

WHether the *Leproſy* be a Species of the *King's-Evil*, or a diſtinct Humour, let better Judges determine; but the Gentleman's Son (about ſeven Years old) of whom I now write, from the Crown of his Head to the Sole of his Feet, was (when brought into my Hands) overſpread with one entire Scab; and the Child, when warm in Bed, would ſcratch and claw himſelf with that Violence, his Linnen Pillow and Sheets would be ſtained all over with Blood; for whoſe Cure all the known and ſtated Methods of Practice had been eſſayed. His Parents being able and willing to bear the Charge, I prepared a warm Bath made of the *Specifick* Liquor, in which ſome particular Herbs were boiled; the Child ſat for half an Hour up to the Chin every Morning coming out of his Bed. I adviſed likewiſe the taking of the *Specifick* Drops and Powder in his ordinary Table-drink. This Method the Child continued

nued ſix Months (the Bath being ſometimes intermitted) and tho' I conceal his Name and Habitation for ſome Reaſons, yet I can produce the Youth, with many other authentick Vouchers, to witneſs his Cure.

CApt. *Watkins's* Lady of *Debtford*, *July* the 10th, 1710. brought her eldeſt Son, (a Youth about eleven Years old) to my Houſe, for the Cure of a filthy Humour in his Head, Noſe, and Lips, with ſome knotty Swellings elſewhere; but theſe Evils were nothing in Compariſon to his frequent Bleedings at the Noſe when warm in Bed, whereby the Child was ſo extreamly emaciated, he look'd more like a dead than a living Creature; for the Cure whereof his Mother told me, the Help of regular Phyſicians had never prevailed, and therefore ſhe importuned my Aſſiſtance if he was recoverable. I told her I could not warrant any Succeſs, unleſs his Bleeding could be prevented, which it pleaſed God to enable me to do in fourteen Days time. The Boy hereby getting Strength by the habitual Uſe of the *Specifick* Drops and Powders, his other Difficulties were eaſily ſurmounted. He is now gone to the *Indies*, but his Uncle Mr. *James Watkins*, at the Bank of *England*, will, I dare ſay, give full Teſtimony of his Cure to any Perſon deſirous of that Satisfaction.

A Lady of Quality near *Soho-Square*, brought her Grand-daughter, then about eleven Years of Age, to my Houſe, very much afflicted with a Humour in her Noſe and Upper-Lip, with ſome ſmall Swellings in her Neck, a thick Matter uſually diſcharging it ſelf every Night from the Noſe on her Pillow; her Conſtitution alſo was *Hectick*, and her Appetite always craving (as moſt Peoples are, ſubject to theſe Illneſſes): It was *Sept.* 13, 1707. when I undertook this Child's Cure, and by the following *Auguſt*, it pleaſed God to bleſs my Endeavours with that Succeſs,

no one could diſcern ſhe had ever been afflicted with any ſuch Diſtemper, having continued free from the like Complaint ever ſince. Mr. *Maltus*, then living in *Pell-mell*, (Apothecary to the late Queen) was an Eye-witneſs of this Cure; and I believe Monſieur *Bewſhire*, if he recollects his Memory, muſt have Knowledge thereof himſelf.

A Lady living in *Great Marlborough Street*, *April* 9. 1710. being encouraged by a Perſon of Quality in *Poland-ſtreet*, whoſe Daughter I had formerly cured, ſent her Woman with one of her Children to me, to know if the Child was troubled with the *King's Evil*, whoſe Lips were much ſwelled, and likewiſe a large ſcrofulous Tumour on the Calf of one Leg; the Cauſe whereof a skilful *Spagiriſt* aſſerted was from the Worms; but as Doctors don't always agree, it was my Opinion, the Child's Complaint was Strumous; and in a little time, more of theſe Swellings would ariſe. My Predictions proving true, the Child was put into my Hands, whoſe Cure took me up ten Months before ſhe was free from the Diſtemper.

N. B. *That the Names and Habitations of ſome Perſons mentioned in this Specimen of my Succeſs, are concealed, People muſt not wonder at, becauſe Perſons of Worth and Diſtinction are not willing it ſhould be known they have had any ſuch Diſeaſe, leaſt it ſhould prejudice their Families; I have therefore, always taken care not to give Offence by ſuch Publication, without Leave firſt obtained.*

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Title Page, read *Mor'os*. P. 16 r. *diſpertiti*. P. 43. r. *Stanſtead*.

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